

Invincible Saint ~ Salaryman, – the Path I Walk to Survive in This Other World –

- Book 10 -

**Power that was lost and
Power that has been gained**

AUTHOR:
Brocolli Lion

[Translated by: Tseirp Translations]

CHAPTER 170

TO RETRIEVE WHAT HAS BEEN LOST

After we set off from Meratoni, we traveled through the night on horseback, arrived at the village where we encountered the demons and stayed a night there before setting off to return to the Holy Capital.

The emergence of the demons did not affect the village at all as they calmly welcomed us and I only exchanged a few greetings with the new village elder, nothing in particular happened.

Luckily, there weren't any wounded individuals so I could thankfully get a good rest.

The next day, we leisurely departed for the Holy Capital and the sun had already set by the time we could see it, stop the carriage and enter.

This time, in order to return in absolute secrecy, I planned to cover my visage with my robe, enter the Holy Capital using my Adventurer's card, cut towards the center of the Holy Capital as quickly as possible and reach the Church Headquarters without anybody noticing.

Then, when it was time to execute the plan, was this the result of my training? Nobody called out to me at all.

I was delighted with my accomplishment as I waited for everyone to gather.

In actual fact, I was the only person who ran through the center, everyone else walked from the back until the meeting point.

I felt like everyone recognized my retainers but they only tilted their heads in puzzlement.

Well, the reason I did something as troublesome as this was because of how well recognized I was and even though I wanted to give up halfway ...

If an injured resident caught me, I won't be able to deal with it and would only be able to treat it using a potion instead of invoking magic so strange rumors might circulate.

I felt like there was no other choice after giving it such thought.

Well, it was Pope-sama who came up with this entire strategy so my true thoughts would be that I have no option of refusing to do so.

“Luciel-sama, you’ve become faster.”

Lionel praised me when they met up with me.

“All thanks to Lionel and Shisho.”

I told Lionel with a smile before stepping into the Church Headquarters.

Just as I was about to inform the reception of my return, it seemed like Catherine was informed in advance and she came to welcome me.

“Luciel-kun, welcome back. Pope-sama asked me to come meet you, did something happen?”

I was bothered by a gaze I felt secretly looking at me from somewhere but I decided to return Catherine-san’s greeting first and wait for the other party’s move.

“Catherine-san, I’m back. ... What do you mean?”

“Because I noticed that Pope-sama was slightly flustered.”

Pope-sama was probably flustered because I, the S-rank Healer, had lost the ability to use Holy Attribute Magic?

I switched the nature of the conversation in order to not delve any deeper into that topic.

“... Is that so? Well, I don’t know if it is fine to talk about it but I was caught up in something troublesome during my journey, have you heard about the demons?”

“The incident with the demon race? I’ve heard. I was indeed surprised at that time but hasn’t it been already 2 months since that incident?”

“To tell the truth, this time, I went on a trip to Grandol and for some reason, there was a demon there too. Moreover, it was quite strong too ...”

“Was it a genuine demon?”

“Genuine demon?”

She asked if it was a genuine demon but are there even imposters?

“There were multiple demon corpses the other time right? We were supposed to dispose of them but after some time had passed, they transformed back into humans apart from one of them. After that, instead of turning into undead, they dissolved the next day.”

Demonization ... when push comes to shove, it seems useful against the Evil God's undeadification but activating it spells an immediate loss of consciousness.

” ... It might have been a created demon. However, this time it remained as a demon after some time has passed so there's a possibility the corpse would be sent over to your side later.”

“I see. Ah, sorry. I'll guide you to Pope-sama now. I've already obtained permission for everyone here to accompany you so this way please.”

I somehow made it through without telling the truth to Catherine-san and we left to visit the room Pope-sama was in.

As expected, there was no way I could tell her the truth and I was hesitant about lying to her so I breathed a sigh of relief as I followed Catherine-san.

As always, the attendants left the room the same time we entered the Pope's room but for some reason this time, Catherine-san didn't exit.

Just as I was thinking it was strange, Pope-sama spoke to me.

“Luciel, you've done well returning alive.”

“Yes, thank you for your warm words.”

Within the dignified atmosphere, I was thankful that she still summoned me despite having lost my Holy Attribute Magic.

However, Pope-sama's subsequent words caused my trust in her to fall drastically.

“Fumu. Well then, I’ll immediately jump into the main topic, Luciel, I’ve told everything to Catherine.”

“... Everything?”

Did she really tell her everything? Even if she’s the Pope, I can’t just accept that ...

“Activating the forbidden art, reviving your instructor and follower that had turned into undead due to the Evil God’s actions and ... the price which was your life as a Healer.”

If she has told her everything ... if the job change doesn’t go well, maybe I should escape with Lionel to Ienith just in case.

Or perhaps ...

“... I see. Then, the reason you purposely came to the reception to talk to me was?”

“Yes. In order to reduce the suspicions from the surroundings on why Luciel-kun returned.”

“If that’s the case then please let me know in advance. I was anxious since I can’t really keep secrets.”

“Whenever Luciel-kun lies or tries to hide something, even though you make sure to not let it show on your face, your eyes would show discomposure so I could immediately tell that you were hiding something.”

Catherine-san said while laughing but it didn’t make me feel much better.

Nevertheless, since coming to this world, I have not had any business talks with people so she made me aware that there’s the fear of having my emotions read if I am not conscious of it.

That was the sole salvation among everything.

“If so, then Pope-sama, I will immediately jump into the main topic. Could you promote or change my job?”

“Fumu. Like I mentioned before, sit in a meditative pose, calm your mind and close your eyes.”

“Yes.”

I did as I was told and when Pope-sama's hand touched my forehead, my body became warm and Pope-sama said.

"Jobs that are capable of using Holy Attribute Magic, Paladin, Healer and Priest, are all absent, I thought that it might be possible to redo once again from Healer but it seems like that can't be done either."

Even though I was prepared for it, the shock was still huge ... even so ...

" ... Understood. Then as I had requested before, please allow me to travel to the Independent Magic City Nelldal."

" ... I thought you would have been more depressed but Luciel sure is strong."

Pope-sama smiled but it was my real feelings to want to quickly try all the possible means to cure myself as it's a matter of life and death to me.

"And?"

"I've opened the transfer gate for your use at any time but ... there's one problem."

"What is it?"

"It's not possible for everyone to accompany you. At the very most, only three people including Luciel can go."

I predicted that there would be an upper limit to the number of people that can be transferred but three people are so few.

But if that's the case ... I stood up and turned back to issue instructions to everyone.

"Lionel, Cathy and Kefin will stay on the ground. I'll give out individual instructions later."

""""Yes!""""

The three of them nodded without raising any opposition.

With this, even if people who bear hatred towards Lionel and the others appear, he won't be exposed to danger.

I'd be troubled if he was subjected to ploys like poisoning. Next ...

“Nadia, Lydia, come over here.”

“”Yes.””

The two of them moved to stand behind me and bowed towards Pope-sama.

“These two are?”

“These two are nobles from the Principality of Blange but are currently active as Adventurers. Many things happened in Grandol and they now accompany me.”

“Noble girls from another country huh ... Do you have any reason for bringing them along?”

“Yes. Actually, Lydia possesses the same Blessing from the Spirit King as Pope-sama and Nadia is the Dragon God Priestess.”

Upon hearing that, Pope-sama’s expression turned into a somewhat stunned expression.

“Seriously ... the things Luciel does really astonish people like what father did. If so, then it would be good to take the girl who possesses the Blessing from the Spirit King along. She will definitely help you in the future. Furthermore, it’s also fine for the Dragon God Priestess to accompany you. She will most likely be of aid to Luciel.”

Pope-sama immediately accepted my decision to have the two of them accompany me.

“Understood. Then, regarding Estia, what should I do?”

“You can leave Estia to me. Also, this time, I will take care of Fornoir here.”

I looked at Estia and thought that her mind would certainly stabilize with Fornoir around so I nodded.

“When do you plan to leave?”

“I will depart tomorrow morning immediately after seeing Lionel and the others off.”

“I see. Catherine, please guide them.”

“Yes! This way please.”

It looked like Catherine would be guiding us to our accommodations but I had to release Fornoir from the Hermit Stable first.

When Fornoir came out and saw Pope-sama and me, she play-bit my head before slowly moving towards Pope-sama.

“Fumu. Luciel is liked by her.”

“Yes. Fornoir is my partner.”

Pope-sama happily commented so I unintentionally leaked my true feelings.

Fornoir didn’t show any reaction but her tail was swaying.

Then, I would be going to my personal room while everyone would be going to the dormitory but I secretly spoke to Lionel and the others.

“Once you all reach the dormitory, immediately come to my personal room.”

The three of them quietly nodded and after making sure that they followed Catherine-san, I moved to my personal room.

The three of them visited my room after two hours had passed.

When I opened the door after hearing the sounds of knocking, I saw that they were exhausted.

“What happened?”

” ... Knowing that we had entered the church, people requesting for mock battles and pleading for guidance appeared.”

... Was it the receptionist? Or was it Catherine-san? That was something unnecessary.

” ... Sorry. It would have been alright if I dealt with it beforehand. I’ll jump into business immediately, Lionel, have this.”

I apologized to Lionel and the others and handed them my magic bag.

"... This magic bag?"

"Yes. I actually passed one to Shisho too. Inside is a letter to Dolan, a certain amount of food, high-grade potions as well as gold and magic stones."

"If there's a letter to Dolan then it means we will be heading to Rockford? If that's the case, isn't it sufficient to just lend me an item bag?"

Lionel is seriously diligent and capable.

"To be honest, I don't think I will be able to return from Nelldal immediately. So during that time, please collect the equipment I ordered for you all and train to be able to use them competently ... especially Lionel. The two of you please support him."

As if having overcome with emotion, Lionel knelt on the ground and paid vassal homage.

And Cathy and Kefin followed by imitating that while laughing.

"I will once again reach the state where I can make Luciel-sama fall down by the time Luciel-sama is able to return."

"That's promising. For me, I'll be dead if I don't regain my Holy Attribute Magic so I'll absolutely regain it."

If not, it would be absurd to think that I will be able to walk away without any injuries during my mock battles with Shisho and Lionel.

"Leave Lionel-sama to me nya."

"We won't be going with Luciel-sama so please tell us about what happened in Nelldal when we meet you later."

Cathy and Kefin acknowledged my instructions with a smile.

I took this opportunity to properly ask them.

"... So do you all really wish to continue with our master-servant relationship?"

It's about our master-servant relationship. By now, apart from when we're in public places, I wish to interact with them as friends.

"Yes. It is my nature to serve somebody. Furthermore, you saved my life so I hope that it can remain like this even in the future too."

"I will also serve the person Lionel-sama serves ... nya."

Eh? Was the ending of the sentence a little delayed?

"Although I've been released from slavery, I still have a guilty conscience and I owe Luciel-sama a debt of gratitude so I also wish to serve you like the two of them."

It's great that Kefin had rehabilitated but he's gradually becoming more and more like Lionel.

The youthful Lionel's appearance was not that much different from Kefin's appearance so it's a sign that they might become good friends ...

"Since you all haven't stopped using honorific speech with me, should I prohibit the use of honorific speech?"

"I'm already accustomed to it and Luciel-sama, please continue speaking the way you've been speaking."

There was no way I could refuse with the way Lionel said it so I sighed and acknowledged it.

"Ha~ very well. Ah, that's right. There's one more task I wish to entrust to you all. Actually ..."

Upon hearing my request, everyone reluctantly agreed and left my room.

With this, I shouldn't have to worry about everyone for the time being.

This time, I was really sorry that I dragged Nadia and Lydia along with me to the city in the skies without getting their agreement beforehand.

Even so, I'll have them accompany me for a little longer.

They might come to dislike me with this incident but even so, I must regain my usage of Holy Attribute Magic and the two of them have promised to help as much as they can.

CHAPTER 171

ONWARD, TO THE INDEPENDENT MAGIC CITY NELLDAL

In the early morning where there has yet to be anyone around, three horses were about to depart from the Holy Capital but noticing that they didn't have anything that can serve as their identification, the three people stopped by the Adventurer's Guild before heading for Rockford.

"Facilities that are open 24 hours sure are convenient ... it's probably tough for those who are working though."

After sending them off, I was on my way back to my personal room when a voice called out to me from behind.

"Luciel-kun."

"Good morning. Lumina-san."

Lumina-san was there when I turned back.

"Yeah, morning. I heard you returned last night?"

"Yes. Sorry for not being able to say hello. Because I'll be leaving the Holy Capital immediately after having my meal."

"Sounds like you are busy. I thought we could have a mock battle or something if you had the time but ... could I ask where would you be heading to this time?"

Lumina-san changed the topic while looking like she truly found it to be a shame.

Normally I wouldn't mind just having a mock battle but if I was injured, I'm in a condition where I wouldn't be able to heal myself so I could only reject her offer.

“I’ll be going to Nelldal. Actually, my Magical Power Attributes increased so I thought of properly learning magic so I requested it of Pope-sama.”

“I see, you intend to learn magic from other attributes … if so, then are you going to change your job?”

Are Healers only capable of using Holy Attribute Magic?

While thinking that, I replied her a little ambiguously.

“I’ll be retaining that too. It would be great if turns into a job that can use Holy Attribute Magic such as Paladin etc.”

“Fufu, that will be interesting. If that becomes reality, there would probably be a struggle within the Paladin corps to pull Luciel-kun in.”

“ … I’m slightly terrified just thinking about it.”

It reminded me of invitations from sports clubs but compared to that, I ended up seeing a future where their scramble for me would be even more savage.

I shook my head and dispelled my delusions.

“It just shows how popular you are. Then I’ll be going for my training.”

Lumina-san laughed and said she’ll be going ahead so I cheered her on.

“Yeah, do your best. Ah, lately I’ve encountered villagers who can turn into demons and the demonization is sudden so when you’re out on expeditions please maintain your vigilance even within villages.”

“ … Thanks for the advice.”

Then, Lumina left for the training grounds.

“I won’t be able to think about the kiss until after everything has been settled so, sorry.”

I bowed towards Lumina-san who had already left.

I met up with Estia, Nadia and Lydia when it was time for breakfast but, excluding the Valkyrie Paladin Corps, it was a workplace with few females so we were exposed to numerous gazes.

Nadia and Lydia seemed like they were accustomed to being looked at but Estia's complexion was worse for wear today as well.

"Estia, were you able to sleep last night?"

"... I wasn't really able to sleep."

She shook her head and covered her face with both hands.

"... Is that because of what happened in Meratoni? Or is there something else?"

"... Both."

I felt like I heard some fear mixed within the small voice she somehow squeezed out.

"... I see. I'll let Pope-sama know too. You can tell me about Meratoni once you've calmed down. Also, I can't say that I am used to situations like these. Do your best. When you're at your wit's end, don't hold back, you can cry on Fornoir and Pope-sama."

"... Okay."

After hearing my nonsensical remarks, she turned to look at me and nodded with a smile.

With her that stiff smile, it felt like she cheered up slightly.

"Well then ... Nadia, Lydia. I am terribly sorry for forcing you two to accompany me this time. I feel that I neglected to take your thoughts into consideration."

Riding on the momentum of my talk with Estia, I apologized to Nadia and Lydia.

However, as I was about to lower my head deeply, I noticed the gazes from our surroundings so I stopped with just a slight nod.

"It's a fact that I was surprised but I've actually always wanted to go to Nelldal once. So I am actually very happy. I should be the one thanking you, thank you."

"Elder sister and I both love to read the accounts of hero battles and we read about the floating city there but unfortunately, the permission from the king is required to

travel to Nelldal from Blange so it was an unattainable dream for daughters of a Baron house like us. So we're truly happy."

The two of them seemed like they really did not mind it.

On the contrary, they apparently have a strong interest in Nelldal and this was instead a welcomed development so they ended up thanking me.

The sense of guilt I was feeling up until just now was cleared and it was understandable as it wasn't just words they said to be polite, they spoke from their heart.

At the same time, I realized that I did not look at their expression at that time.

I was once again made aware of how discomposed I was.

"... I'm glad to hear you two say that. Once we arrive at Nelldal, I'll be having the two of you learn magic too. But generally, I'll probably be letting you two spend your time freely."

"Are you sure that is alright?"

"We'll be accompanying you as your retainers right?"

The two of them were surprised but it's because Nelldal extols the policy of non-combat.

"Yeah. But fundamentally I won't be enforcing any restrictions onto the two of you. But I just have one request. Once we arrive at Nelldal, we'll immediately head towards the fountain in the center. We might have to enter combat there so I hope you two will prepare yourselves for that."

"Battle ... there shouldn't be a problem if it's just to the extent of a small skirmish."

"This time around, I'll make sure to be useful."

Rather than young ladies from a noble family, the two of them felt more like expert high-rank Adventurers so they seemed very reliable.

After finishing our meal, before Lumina-san and the others came, we once again left to visit Pope-sama's room.

” ... And so Fornoir. Why are you biting my head as soon as we meet.”

Just as I was about to speak after entering the room, the approaching Fornoir suddenly began play biting my head.

Fornoir did not stop biting as she ignored my words.

After that, I gave up and let Fornoir do whatever she wanted but she was apparently satisfied and moved back to Pope-sama’s side.

“Pope-sama, I apologize for my rudeness.”

“It’s fine. She’s probably feeling lonely as she has to part with her partner.”

Pope-sama forgave me while laughing.

“Burururuu.”

Fornoir took a slightly disgruntled attitude after hearing that.

Currently, at this location, there was only the four of us along with Pope-sama and Fornoir.

“Well as I am leaving Fornoir in your care at the moment, I also wish to leave this with you too.”

“This is a key?”

“Yes. It is a magic tool, the Hermit’s Key. Turning the key will cause a stable to appear and when Fornoir enters it, it has the effect of feeding her and taking care of her body.”

“You certainly have a convenient item.”

“Yeah. It came in handy during my travels. This time I will be going to Nelldal in the name of an expedition but in actual fact, I still can’t predict how long I would have to spend there ... so I wish to leave this with Pope-sama.”

“Umu. You can leave Fornoir to me.”

As expected, there's a limit to how long Fornoir can stay in Pope-sama's room and she would probably accumulate stress that way.

I could have also left the key to Estia to manage but I was also afraid to have Fornoir depend on Estia.

So I requested Pope-sama to manage it.

"Thank you. Also, one more thing, Estia is shy and not accustomed to people looking at her so once again, please look after her."

"Very well. It is normal for an individual possessing the blessing of the Spirit King to give advice to ones who possess the blessing of spirits."

I indirectly spoke about what happened this morning and Pope-sama nodded with a smile.

I restrained myself from getting engrossed in looking at her appearance as I requested for her to transfer us to Nelldal.

"Well then, I've ended up doing things in a rush but Pope-sama, please transfer us."

"Umu. Follow me."

Pope-sama moved to the room to the right so we followed after her.

I thought that we would be using the transfer magic in the Pope's room but it apparently wasn't so.

The neighboring room didn't have any windows and apart from a burning candle on a candlestick, it was a room with only a magic circle on the floor.

"We'll be doing it here in this dimly lit place?"

"That's right. It was constructed to prevent the mixing of the magical power in the air."

It was probably Sir Rainstar who constructed it.

He really amazes me. But if that person acquired Space-time Magic, wouldn't he be able to roam through space and time?

Thinking about that, if it's him, wouldn't he have done something about the Evil God?

Just as I was lost in thought about that, I followed Pope-sama's instructions and moved to the center of the magic circle.

"There won't be any problems if you hand this over once you reach that side."

She said as she passed a letter to me.

"Who should I pass this to?"

"The Magician Guild Leader that manages Nelldal. He'll definitely be of help to you."

"Thank you very much."

Pope-sama smiled and nodded before she struck the magic circle with her staff.

The magic circle emitted white light and the instant I was completely bathed in white, I felt an extremely strange sensation.

It was as if I was floating in midair ... to be exact, it felt like I was experiencing weightlessness, a feeling like my feet were not touching the ground.

Then, the light gradually faded and we were in a dimly lit room similar to the place Pope-sama sent us off.

To be sure, I closed my eyes and used Presence and Magical Power Perception but I did not sense any of Pope-sama's magical power.

Instead, I felt numerous presences and actually felt that we've transferred.

"Are the two of you alright?"

"Yes. It was a slightly weird sensation but it's not a problem."

"I am fine too."

After the two of them replied with that and I confirmed that they were fine, I opened the door in front of us.

The location we emerged into after passing through the door was a room where sunlight entered beautifully and was beautiful to the extent that it made one fall into admiration.

“This is amazing.”

“It’s wonderful. It’s the first time in my life I’ve seen such pretty decorations.”

“We’re really in the Sky City … truly beautiful.”

Sir Rainstar, even as a reincarnated individual, you are way too extraordinary.

“There are 8 rooms … there’s surplus even if all the countries are included ...”

It’s not like we could keep staring forever so I confirmed our surroundings.

When I did so, I noticed that there were 7 other doors similar to the one we exited from.

Although I saw a total of 8 doors, I had no idea if they all had transfer circles so I discontinued that thought and embarked on searching around.

“First, let’s look for the center of Nelldal or the Magical Arts Church.”

“”Yes!””

Even though I was slightly uneasy, I earnestly wanted my job to bloom safely as I opened the door with a plate written as ‘Entrance’ hung on it.

CHAPTER 172

MAGIC GUILD LEADER ORFORD

Upon leaving the decorated room, we entered a dazzling corridor that stretched forth in a straight line.

“This place is amazing too. This place is probably the Magic Guild. I sense strong magical powers ahead so let’s try moving in that direction.”

Following the path set by the corridor, we moved forward and reached the Magic Guild.

When we exited the corridor, there was a small reception directly in front of us with staircases leading up and down behind it.

“It leads to this. Let’s go to the reception first.”

“”Yes.””

I spoke to the reception lady in front of us together with the two of them.

“We’ve come from the Saint Schull Allied Nations, I am the Healer Luciel and these two are my retinue. I’ve received a letter from Pope-sama addressed to the Magic Guild Leader, could you please convey the message for me?”

“Yes, sir. Please wait a moment.”

The receptionist lady replied and began communicating with a magic communication bead.

When I looked around the surroundings until her conversation ended, I noticed that there were actually a couple of information sign plates hanging down from the ceiling.

If combined with a floor plan then I would probably not get lost in here.

The receptionist lady finished her conversation as I was thinking about such things.

“Sorry to keep you waiting. The person responsible will arrive soon so please wait for a moment.”

“I see. Thank you. By the way, I have a question, do you have a floor plan for this Magic Guild as well as a map that depicts the overall layout of Nelldal?”

“Yes. We do but it has to be purchased, is that all right?”

Since they are maintaining a facility like this, their maintenance cost should also be quite considerable?

That might be why they have a system to collect something like an admission fee.

I was convinced so I asked for the price.

“Yes. How much is it?”

“The map that shows the entire Nelldal will be 10 gold coins while the Magic Guild interior plan will be 5 gold coins.”

Converting that into Japanese yen would be 15 million (~1500USD) ... well, I can pay for it but even so, it is expensive.

She presented a price that one would not be able to pay for normally so it felt to me like it was some kind of test.

” ... Then, here you go.”

That's why I left a slight pause before giving her 15 gold coins.

The reception lady was shocked by my quick actions.

She probably didn't expect there to be anyone who would pay a price like that.

But that was exactly why I imagined and expected some kind of special benefit if I bought them.

” ... Are you sure?”

“Yes. I believe I would be staying here for some time so in consideration of that, I intend to buy it because I might get lost without a map.”

She asked gingerly but I answered with a smile so she looked somewhat relieved as she passed me a hardcover book and a booklet.

“This would show you the entirety of Nelldal while this is the map of the Magic Guild as well as a free pass to the Magic Archive.”

I imagined a thin map or a pamphlet-kind of document but I was totally wrong.

When I briefly flipped through it, I saw, described in detail, information such as the correct method to use each of the facilities and the reason why such facilities were constructed.

The Magic Guild booklet was more like a pamphlet that detailed the leisure facilities but there was one remark that caught my attention.

“Free pass to the Magic Archive?”

“Yes. Almost none of the people who visit this Magic Guild purchase the guild information map. However, that lacked an interesting aspect so we prepared a special benefit.”

“That would be the free pass to the Magic Archive?”

“Yes. The admission ticket to the Magic Archive is sold inside as well but it cost 10 gold coins for a day so this would be a tremendous bargain if you intend to stay here for a long time.”

” ... I see. Who was it who came up with this?”

“It was the founder of Nelldal as well as the leader of the Magic Guild at that time.”

I no longer felt like asking anymore.

As if she had guessed it, I heard the sound of somebody coming up the stairs.

A lady soon appeared but I was surprised when I saw her appearance.

The appearance of the lady who came up the stairs and the appearance of the reception lady was like two peas in a pod.

Twins? Just as I thought that, I immediately discovered the truth.

“Sorry to keep you waiting guild leader, I heard there’s a customer? Eh, why are you disguising yourself as me!!”

The lady looked like she was shocked for a moment after seeing the receptionist lady with the same face but she got angry the next moment.

“Fofof. There was a request from the Holy Capital Pope-sama right? Well then, guests, I am the Magic Guild guildmaster Orford. It’s a bit open here so I’ll guide you to my room.”

The supposed receptionist lady stood up and said that but the lady trembled and raised her voice.

“More important than that, please stop disguising yourself as me.”

“There’s no helping it, alright, dispel!!”

The next instant, white smoke wrapped around Orford-san and the smoke immediately disappeared. But it was not the reception lady who reappeared but the figure of a good-natured old man dressed in a blue-drenched robe with white hair and a long white beard.

That magic that could transform one’s form was something I greatly desired in the past.

” ... Erm, may I know what magic attribute does that magic belong to?”

That’s why I could not resist myself from asking.

“It is a Mixed Magic that superimposes Water Attribute and Fire Attribute. Well then, let’s go.”

That appearance that usually appears in novels is probably not just for show.

I might be able to regain my Holy Attribute Magic if I take a lesson from this person.

While thinking that, I chased after the guildmaster who was ascending the steps.

After beginning to ascend the steps, the dazzling impression of the surroundings drastically changed and it felt like I stepped into a different building that gave off a refined feeling.

“This is my room.”

We entered the guildmaster room as guided.

We immediately came across a setup for receiving guests so I thought we would be talking there but he passed that by and stopped in front of a mirror ... or rather, he was sucked into the mirror.

“Ha? He disappeared?”

““Disappeared!?””

When we made dumbfounded expressions, Orford-san came out from the mirror.

“Fofof, surprised? This is a magic mirror, a special mirror that only allows the person whose magical power has been imprinted as well as those who have received his authorization to enter.”

“... Did you perhaps return because you forgot to give us the permission?”

“... Fofof. Don’t fret the minor details and follow me.”

He said as he disappeared into the mirror.

“He completely forgot right.”

“He’s of old age so he’s bound to forget one or two things.”

“He might love to pull pranks but I don’t sense any evil intentions from him.”

The two of them seem like they are kind towards their elders but Orford-san is definitely ...

It felt like everything was done to test us but I took a deep breath and headed towards the mirror.

“... Let’s follow then.”

I touched the mirror and my arm was sucked into it. I slowly entered the mirror in that fashion and I appeared in a place that looked exactly like the guildmaster room.

“This place is?”

“This is the real guildmaster room. That over there is a fake since people occasionally enter without permission. Well, come sit over here and relax.”

The two others followed immediately so he offered us chairs.

“Thank you.”

Nadia and Lydia tried to stand behind my chair but I had them sit together with us.

“I’ll introduce myself again. I am the Healer’s Guild S-rank Healer Luciel. Thank you for making time to meet me.”

“Fumu. So stiff~, you have to relax a little more.”

He made a good-natured old man expression and I felt that his eyes could see through everything and that he was chiding me for being impatient.

” ... Thank you. This is the letter from Pope-sama.”

“Fumu. Before that, how about some black tea?”

” ... Thank you.”

“Fo, fo, fo. Please wait a moment.”

I felt like I was slightly impatient but I wondered why was I feeling so impatient.

I don’t know if the reason was because I wanted to regain my Holy Attribute Magic as soon as possible or because I could not bear not having Healer as my job.

Orford-san stood up without losing his smile and went to brew the black tea.

Lydia chose to speak at her own discretion.

” ... Those eyes that look like they can see through everything might be an Appraisal skill.”

“True, that might be a possibility.”

Nadia responded that way but I denied it.

“If it’s the Appraisal skill then he’s the third person I’ve met who possess it. But I believe it is not Appraisal but something else ... it gives me the impression that it allows him to look into the essence of a person.”

“The essence?”

“Yes. I feel that we have continually been tested ever since we arrived at this Magic Guild. Furthermore, it seems like he knows that I am impatient ... and it feels like he is giving me guidance in that fashion.”

“I see. As expected of the leader of the Magic Guild Headquarters.”

“It looks like Luciel-sama has calmed down too to be able to come up with that theory.”

“That might be true.”

After talking with the two of them and calming down, Orford-san carried the black tea over.

“Did I make you wait?”

“No, I was able to calm down thanks to that.”

“Fumu. Then, I will read the letter so drink the tea.”

“Okay.”

I passed him the letter I received from Pope-sama after receiving the black tea.

Orford-san began to read the letter and since he went through the trouble to make it, I drank the black tea and it was very fragrant and extremely tasty.

It looked like the other two also had the same impression so he probably had considerable skill.

But I wanted it to be just a little bit sweeter so while making sure Orford-san who was seriously reading the letter did not notice, I pulled out a small vial of honey.

The sisters saw that so I poured some into theirs too. The instant the two of them held it in their mouths, they gave extremely blissful expressions so I was relieved that the honey went well with the black tea.

Then, just as I was about to keep the honey, Orford-san met my eyes.

” ... Is that, by any chance, honey?”

“Yes. Please have some if you want to.”

I passed him the small vial.

“No doubt about it. Where did you get this?”

“From a factory. So, what did Pope-sama say?”

“Loss of Healer job and Holy Attribute Magic ... the attribute was not erased so she requested for my help if I have any means to treat you. There were some other things too.”

”... I see. Please lend me your strength.”

“There are conditions.”

“As long as they are not unreasonable, I will accept it all.”

”... I wish for a large amount of honey. I will lend my strength if you promise me that.”

“I can do that. If I regain the use of Holy Attribute Magic, I will even dedicate honey mead to you.”

“Wh, what? We can’t idle here. Quickly, to the Magic Archive. I’ll definitely help you regain your Holy Attribute Magic immediately.”

”... Yes.”

To be able to tempt him with items, is the Magic Guild really alright?

Even though I was slightly uneasy, in order to regain my Holy Attribute Magic, I was thankful that I gained a powerful helper and we moved to the Magic Archives after we finished drinking the black tea.

CHAPTER 173

ASTONISHMENT

I purchased 2 maps from the Magic Guild but I still had not have the chance to look at them so without knowing where the Magic Archive was, we followed after Orford-san.

I expected him to exit through the mirror once again and move off from there but Orford-san moved in the opposite direction from the mirror towards an imitation magic circle that was placed there as decoration.

“Isn’t this just a decoration?”

“Fofof. We can teleport there at once with this magic circle.”

I wonder who would notice that the magic circle placed there as if to symbolize the Magic Guild was actually a real teleportation magic circle?

Orford-san happily said as he stood on top of the magic circle.

The three of us entered the magic circle too but I was concerned about one thing.

“Is there no limit to the number of people?”

“There is but if it’s only for short distance movement, it can easily transfer about ten people.”

I was relieved by his answer and waited for the activation of the magic circle.

As soon as I noticed it emit light, we had already flown from the guildmaster room to the Magic Archive.

The Magic Archive was built in a cylindrical shape and there were bookshelves lined up along the walls.

I could not help but be surprised at seeing this amount of books even in this world.

“We’ve arrived. Well then, I’ll first try to find something among the restricted books and come back. You guys can read whatever books you have an interest in. Also, entry into this place is only limited to a few people so give them my name if anybody asks.”

“Understood. I just have one question, is there perhaps a reason why it is called a Magic Archive instead of a library?”

The place was truly stunning but I felt like it wouldn’t live up to its name with just that reason.

Towards my question, Orford-san merely smiled and silently moved to the back room.

I didn’t understand what was he trying to tell me with that smile but the two people beside me were fidgeting so I instructed them.

” ... Can’t help it. Since he left without saying a word, basically, it should be fine for us to freely do what we want. The two of you can read whichever books you are interested in. We’ll probably come back in the future but you might not have the chance to read the books you like.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“For there to be such a collection, I’m troubled by where to start from.”

The two of them happily went to rummage for books.

It was heart-warming to see the two of them like that but I refocused my mind and sat down on the nearby chair.

Orford-san was controlling himself from saying something so there’s probably some kind of gimmick to it.

But even before that, the hard-cover map and Magic Guild brochure I bought just now was still stuck in my mind.

That’s why I decided to read those two first.

“First would be the brochure that acts as the key to enter and exit this place. Hn?”

When I took a good look at the brochure, I noticed a magic circle carved into it.

” ... Don’t tell me this is the key to enter this archive ... Orford-san even has a security function that lets him know who enters this place? I didn’t expect something to that extent ...”

It was very much possible with Sir Rainstar so I was just astonished.

The teleportation magic circle has an auto-logging security feature (provisional) ... their technical capability is impressive.

Here, not only could I regain my Holy Attribute Magic, I might even be able to absorb various other techniques.

Thinking about it made my heart beat quicken from the expectations.

I took a deep breath to soothe my heart rate and proceeded to read the Magic Guild brochure.

And immediately after I started reading, a certain item caught my eye.

Why is the Magic Guild Headquarters located at the floating Independent Magic City Nelldal?

It was an outline roughly along those lines.

I know that this Nelldal was not constructed for the sake of the Magic Guild.

I heard it directly from the person himself (Rainstar) so there's no doubt about that.

Then what was the reason? The following was written when I continued reading.

The one who controls the sky controls the world.

The words I heard somewhere before was recorded there as it is.

When I read further, it was recorded that the Magic Guild Leader at that time was deeply impressed by those words and begged the Hero to let him set up the Magic Guild in Nelldal.

“I’m surprised they did not revise this part. Did he perhaps take some oath?”

In the first place, since that person was able to create a country of Healers, what's so surprising about finding out that he made two countries?

I could only sigh as I continued reading.

The hero stated the conditions to construct the Magic Guild in Nelldal.

He hoped that they will not be a hindrance or a nuisance to anyone and that only individuals who aim to explore magic are allowed to enter.

“Isn’t that similar to Rockford just that they are different fields ... was Sir Rainstar’s intention to create a monopoly in techniques?”

If that’s the truth then although it is called the Magic Guild Headquarters, it is actually a facility only for research where individuals who wish to explore magic research new magic techniques day in and day out.

I thought as I continued reading the brochure and it seemed like they were conducting research for all kinds of fields.

If classified into the larger fields, it would be the three main fields of magical tools, magic and magic technique with further detailed categories for each field.

Magic tools was categorized into those for combat and for regular use and further research according to magic stone attributes was apparently being conducted.

Magical technique was classified into magic circles and chants.

Last but not least was magic but it was classified into Ancient Magic, Mixed Magic, Spirit Magic, Dragon Magic and magic that even beastmen can use.

All the research facilities for those purposes were listed in detail.

“Do more dangerous research facilities lie below this? Rather than that, is this Magic Guild by any chance ...”

I had a seriously bad feeling about it but I considered the future benefits of studying here at the moment.

Thus, I had read through the brochure to a certain extent.

When I looked up to confirm my surroundings, Orford-san had yet to return and Nadia and Lydia seemed to have found books that they wanted to read and have begun reading them.

After confirming that, I was about to read the hardcover book that described the overview of Nelldal.

Light shined out from the book and a three-dimensional image appeared.

“Welcome to the Independent Magic City Nelldal. I am the hero who constructed this city in the skies. If possible, I wish that it became a city that satisfies people who understand my ambition.”

It was a short three-dimensional projection of just that.

“What on earth did that person intend to achieve?”

It was blurry on a whole and the face could not be seen but there were many similarities to Sir Rainstar who I met previously at Rockford.

Well I won't be able to discover anything even if I thought about it so I continued reading but from then on it was a regular book with no other tricks that described Nelldal in great detail to give readers an understanding of the overall picture of Nelldal.

The Independent Magic City Nelldal was actually comparatively small as a city with a distorted circular shape of 3 kilometers diameter and depth of only about 2 kilometers.

Sir Rainstar probably wanted a city in the skies that he could strike down if he ever wanted to destroy it.

Nelldal has a solid barrier surrounding it that apparently won't be damaged by even the breath attack of a black dragon.

“I don’t know how amazing a black dragon is but it’s too late now to feel that that person is abnormal.”

I flipped the pages and stiffened when I saw a certain sentence.

Although the defensive function of Nelldal was because of the magic circle refined by the Hero, it is not certain but it is said that it is possible due to the twin dragons the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon.

” ... I didn’t hear about this. Wasn’t it supposed to only be the Wind Spirit!!”

Seeing the report listed in the book, I unintentionally cried out.

With no venue to vent my gloomy complex feelings, I could not keep calm.

“Luciel-sama, are you alright?”

“Did something happen?”

Nadia and Lydia were worried and came over but I apologized for my shameful outburst.

” ... Sorry. Don’t worry about it. Maybe because I’ve stopped being a Healer, my mood swings seemed to have intensified.”

“You don’t have to force yourself to smile. Because we are here as your retainers.”

“You can tell us anything.”

I somehow felt apologetic seeing how devoted the two of them were.

“Thank you. But now I have some things I wish to think about so please give me some time alone. It’s your valuable free time as well so the two of you can return to reading your books.”

” ... Understood. Then, please let us know if you need anything.”

“We will immediately rush over.”

“Okay. Thank you.”

After saying so, the two of them returned to the places they originally were.

I took a deep breath and once again looked down onto the book about Nelldal.

Moreover, it's not certain that the details written in the book are actually accurate.

Then, I noticed something.

“Eh? Wait. Don’t tell me …”

I quickly turned the pages and saw that the Magic Guild was in the center of Nelldal and the town spread out to its east west south and north.

“Then where’s the fountain?”

When I looked it up in the brochure, I found that there was a fountain in the Magic Guild courtyard.

“All the conditions are fulfilled … that means, the bad feeling I had just now …”

All the scattered pieces in my head connected.

At that point, a depressed Orford-san returned.

“As expected, there wasn’t anything regarding the loss of job after using a forbidden art.”

“Orford-san, I have two things I wish to ask.”

“Wha, what is it?”

Maybe because I was slightly excited, it seemed like I surprised him.

I calmed myself and asked about the two things.

“If the fairy tale-like dragons written here reincarnate, will Nelldal fall from the sky?”

“Fumu. Even if the dragons exist and they are defeated, Nelldal will probably still not fall. Since we have already prepared for it by carving floating magic circles on Nelldal.”

Feeling relieved that the worst case scenario would not happen, I asked the next question to affix the final piece.

“Just hypothetically, do you all possess magic or magic tools that are capable of dispelling Evil God-class seals?”

“... No.”

His expression did not change when he answered no but it felt to me that the aura and intimidation he released from his eyes increased.

“Then, if dragons exist, do you know of any potion-like item that can seal their wounds?”

“No, because there have not been any dragons. Well, there’s no need to be so anxious.”

“I wish to quickly regain my ability no matter what.”

“Well, calm down. I heard from Pope-sama that you have aptitude in several other attributes. It won’t be too late to see after you train those right?”

I understood that it was useless no matter what Orford-san said in the present circumstances.

I reset my mind and decided that this time, I will train magic in Nelldal while fishing through the collection of books.

“... Okay. I did want to try magic from the other attributes.”

“That’s good. I will serve as your lecturer.”

Orford-san smiled looking as if he was satisfied with my answer but I made a decision to ascertain why he so obstinately evaded my questions.

CHAPTER 174

MAGIC THAT CAN'T BE INVOKED AND SECRETS

While listening to his lecture in the Magic Archive, Orford-san selected an easy-to-understand book about magic for me.

Then, Orford-san looked at me and remarked that my attributes were Holy, Flame, Earth and Lightning, four types in total.

It seems like he really does possess the Appraisal skill and it's a secret that I felt that it was a pity how the blessings from the spirits did not affect my attributes.

It was a lecture by Orford-san but he only said three things.

“The key points to magic are a deep understanding of the chants, imagery that depicts the event in detail, and the activation that draws magical power to interfere with the world.”

“The same thing was written in the elementary magic book I read in the Healer’s Guild in the past.”

“The chants differ according to the imagery and there will be good parts and bad parts but it varies from person to person so you will have to capture your own individuality and strive to practice.”

“”Yes.””

Incidentally, Orford-san also looked at the aptitude of the two of them, Nadia possesses the Lightning, Water and Wind attributes while Lydia has aptitude in the basic four attributes.

From then on, he was motivated for some reason and took up the role of lecturer for the two of them too.

However, what awaited us was a recital that was called a lecture.

... Even though I wanted him to teach me chants and magic circles, for some reason, he just endlessly spoke about contents written in the book and I ended up gradually getting sleepy.

Because to that, I asked Orford-san if there was any place where it would be fine to accidentally cast magic.

“I’ve memorized all the chants for the LvI magic of the attributes I have aptitude in so is there any place where it would be fine to accidentally cast magic?”

“Fumu, it’s true that actual practice is essential too. Then, let’s move to the magic training ground. It’s the training ground that our Magic Guild takes pride in that has been around since the creation of Nelldal and it is covered in walls that will instantaneously fix even if magic is released and destroys it.”

Orford-san smiled in delight but I understood that I was correct on what this Nelldal actually is, from what I thought of just now and the presence of the dragons.

“Sorry to trouble you.”

But I did not talk about it.

Because I felt that it’ll definitely happen if I talked about it.

While following Orford-san out of the Magic Archive, I thought about the two people behind me.

They were, even though only for a time, ladies from a noble family so I thought that they would be able to use magic but now that I think about it, I’ve never seen them use magic at all.

Following that line of thought, I ended up wondering if chanting magic not only depends on the aptitude and attribute but also the job?

Then, since Lydia is able to exercise Spirit Magic, is she also able to utilize regular magic? I had some doubts about that.

I also wondered why Orford-san didn’t point that out when he browsed through the status page of the two of them but I decided to ask him everything after the training.

After walking for roughly about a minute from the Magic Archive, we entered a door but even though miasma was not floating in the air, it was a training ground that could easily be mistaken as a boss room.

“How is it? It was constructed quite splendidly right? Here, the place won’t be destroyed no matter what kind of magic you release.”

” ... Thank you. Then, I will strive until I can manifest magic. The two of you can try too.”

Thus, my magic training began but I would be able to enjoy this.

I had a hunch.

That’s right. Even though it was just a hunch, my expectations were betrayed.

Even though I tried regular chants, chant shortening, chant termination, no chant, unique chants and magic circle chants with all the attributes, my Illusionary Cane was only wrapped in overflowing light from the attributes as if absorbing it in but there was no sign of the magic activating at all.

“If my magical power is being consumed, then I should be able to activate it if I don’t hold anything.”

I pulled myself together and tried activating the Flame attribute magic called Torch but this time, my body was wrapped in magical power and the end result was that I still could not manifest the magic.

I knew that my magical power was decreasing for some reason so I tried looking at my proficiency value but the growth of my attributes did not rise by even one point.

It didn’t look like it was a problem that I could break through on my own so although I was a little lost, I tried asking Orford-san.

Since he’s the Magic Guild Leader, he should be knowledgeable on such a phenomenon right? I had such expectations.

“Orford-san, I chanted the magic and I was wrapped in the magical power of that attribute but I totally can’t activate it so do you have any advice?”

"... You were operating the magical power properly and the balance of your control was good too. But it's the first time I've seen someone not manifest the magic despite continually chanting that much."

He tilted his head and showed a troubled expression as he gave that remark that sounded like it was faked.

If that's the case then I wanted him to teach me what to do but he didn't say anything and merely watched the magic training of the other two.

"Orford-san, I have two ... no, three questions."

"Umu. I'll answer if it's something I know."

As if he was delighted to be asked, he replied me radiantly.

Seeing that, Nadia and Lydia also looked like they wanted to ask him questions later too.

"Then, firstly, does any other Healing Magic exist outside the Holy Attribute?"

"It does. In the Light Attribute. It is capable of everything: attacking, supporting, and healing."

"But I heard that it can only be handled by a hero?"

This person was telling me various things but I noticed that it felt like he was quietly trying to probe if I was a reincarnated individual.

"I'm surprised you know that. Heroes are capable of possessing all attributes. That has also been recorded in literature."

I don't know why he's so happy but I guess this person essentially loves to talk to people.

Once I realized that, I noticed that there wasn't a need to talk while putting up a front.

For that reason, I began throwing straightforward questions at him.

"... What about ones that ordinary people can use?"

“It might be possible if Holy Attribute magic, Water Attribute and Wind Attribute are mixed together, but even though it may have been around during ancient times, I’ve not heard of any successful restoration of that ancient magic.”

“What about in the past?”

“I don’t know.”

Orford-san silently shook his head and touched his long beard.

“I see. Well, I guess that’s to be expected. Somebody would have told me if it is known ... then, the next question, is there a possibility that I can’t handle many magic attributes well because of the effect of my job?”

“No. When your job itself changed, it will cause some kind of wastage during your activation but it won’t be a problem.”

There was overflowing confidence on Orford-san’s face.

Now that I think about it, I was slightly bothered with why Pope-sama did not know about that.

Well, if I think about it, I might be lacking something to be able to utilize magic or it might be related to how I easily increased my attributes by acquiring the blessings of dragons and spirits, my thoughts were starting to get tangled up.

At this point, I decided to search for books that have such information later in the Magic Archive.

Then, I asked the last question.

“This is the final question, the construct of this training ground resembles that of a labyrinth but could you enlighten me if you know of the reason why they did it that way?”

When I asked that, for a split second, Orford-san’s expression froze, he had clearly stiffened.

“Umu. I don’t know the actual reason but it might have been constructed using labyrinths as a reference.”

But he immediately plastered on his usual smiling face and answered vaguely.

“Is that so? Incidentally, how many more similar training grounds are there?”

“... If I’m correct, there are 3 but why do you ask?”

“I have something I wish to investigate here so I plan to stay here for the time being. I was just curious since it doesn’t seem like I would be able to always use this training ground.”

If there are similar training grounds, do the dragon seal doors appear there? There was no need to ask such a foolishly honest hypothetical question so this time I deceived him.

“I see. No matter which area you are at, you can pass as long as you hold the Magic Guild map up so you can be at ease.”

“Thank you. Please allow me to ask if I think of any other questions.”

While I thought about the future, I decided to continue my magic training and study the collection in the Magic Archive as I looked for the opportunity to bring Nadia and Lydia along with me to the fountain.

CHAPTER 175

RUMORS FROM THE PAST AND THE CONSEQUENCES

We received magic training for a couple of hours in the magic training ground but nobody invoked anything ... to be exact, Lydia was able to invoke something. But it was Spirit Magic so it's not counted.

Orford-san merely watched us silently.

“Do you have a minute?”

Maybe my thoughts were shown on my face, with his serious expression, I thought perhaps I would be receiving guidance from Orford-san?

But he spoke words that I did not expect.

“It’s about noon. After this, I’ll guide you all to your accommodations.”

Now that I noticed, we have indeed spent a couple of hours here.

But without achieving anything, would you be able to obediently nod to the words of a person who did not give any kind of guidance? I found that hard to do.

” ... Erm, what about the magic training?”

“Pushing yourself too hard will on the contrary cause you to fail. Follow me.”

Orford-san said that and moved towards the door.

Shisho and Lionel trained me thoroughly with a purpose so having grown accustomed to such styles, I was unsatisfied with Orford-san’s easygoing method.

It looked like it was the same for Nadia and Lydia and they were seeking my opinion with perplexed expressions.

“Luciel-sama.”

“What should we do?”

I looked at their expressions and thought.

If the two of them weren’t here, I would probably rebel by searching for the reason why I can’t invoke magic.

But it struck me that taking that attitude was something a child would do.

” … We won’t have sudden growth even if we continue any longer so let’s follow Orford-san for now. Also, we might be spending a long time doing the same thing so I’ll be in your care.”

””Okay.””

Perhaps my internal conflict showed on my face but the two of them looked at each other and replied in sync while nodding with a smile.

I replied with a nod and we followed after Orford-san.

Looking at the floor plan of the Magic Guild Headquarters, with that simple reception area as the center, the building was split into east west north and south sections.

The south section houses the magic circles that connects to the various countries, the west where we were currently heading towards has the canteen and the accommodations, the east has shops and the library while the north houses the classrooms for the Magic Guild.

Apparently, without a certain degree of authority, one cannot go up the stairs behind the simple reception area.

For that reason, there was a conspicuous blank space on the map.

Following the stairs down, the research facilities become more unpleasant but it seemed like there was also entry inspections every ten days.

While thinking about that, we walked towards the canteen at the west side but I had a sense of incongruity.

“I have a question, why is it that we have not passed anyone by?”

It was written that to prevent pointless conflict between countries, their respective canteens and accommodations were placed on different floors.

Even so, not to mention bumping into the researchers and magicians who supposedly come here from various countries, we did not even encounter any staffs.

“That’s natural since we came through a route whereby we won’t bump into anybody. You also do not wish to encounter people as much as possible right?”

“So that was why. Thank you for your consideration.”

“Fo, fo, fo. That was just a joke. This is a dedicated floor for the Saint Schull Allied Nations but these few decades there has not been anyone who came here. There are also no staffs.”

I was becoming worried about various things.

And buildings would deteriorate quickly if nobody stays in them ...

But it’s the most desirable scenario for the management side.

” ... Since there’s no meaning in allocating staffs to a place where nobody comes to.”

“Fumu. Well, it was quite difficult when I told Pope-sama that about ten years ago.”

” ... I see.”

I felt slightly sympathetic seeing his melancholic air and I decided to stop prying any further.

Then, the canteen we passed through was wide enough for about 30 people to use but a problem cropped up there.

“Luciel-dono, actually, all the equipment and food for cooking are present here but ...”

It looked like it was somewhat hard for him to say so I tried asking.

“What’s wrong? I’ll do whatever I’m capable of though?”

“Oo I see. Actually, we don’t have anyone who can cook here.”

” ... Did you not hire any cooking staff?”

“Umu. There were rumors going around that the Saint Schull Allied Nations where the Healer’s Guild originate from does not think well of the Magic Guild ...”

“Don’t tell me because of those rumors?”

“Umu. I mentioned earlier but there have not been any visitors from the Saint Schull Allied Nations to Nelldal.”

It’s an event that happened half a century ago but as expected, the appearance of a labyrinth in the church affected various aspects.

But, if it is a workplace that staffs don’t wish to work at, it usually won’t come with no demerits.

” ... Perhaps at that timing, there was a salary cut for people who got injured and went for assessments and their promotion was shelved?”

“Good job coming up with that. That’s exactly what happened.”

“That’s to be expected. So it was all because of bad timing huh?”

Orford-san looked at me and nodded in admiration but the same thing probably happens no matter what era or what world it is.

But even if the staffs submitted requests for transfer, would they be able to transfer just like that?

I sensed some kind of ill intent but I felt that he would definitely not tell me even if I asked.

Well, for the Saint Schull Allied Nations at that time, the Holy attribute magic was being manipulated by the other attributes, the Paladins who are said to have high ability were in conflict with the Priest Knights and the absolute power balance was about to be toppled so it’s not surprising that some countries would make their move.

Thinking about that, it also links with the time period when the Healer's Guild disappeared from Ienith.

Well, I seriously hoped that it was merely a coincidence though ...

I switched thoughts and asked about what to do for the meal.

I'm fine with making it myself and the two of them seem to be alright with it too as it seemed like they have come to like cooking too.

"Is it alright if we make our own meals?"

"I'll be grateful if you do that. The food ingredients themselves are decades old but the food cabinet is similar to a magic bag so since the time has been stopped, there shouldn't be any problems."

Please introduce to me anybody who would use those ingredients after listening to that remark.

However, if the ingredients are from half a century ago, there might be something that can surprise Grulga-san and Granz-san.

" ... I'm a little hungry so I'll cook from tomorrow onwards."

After saying that, I took out ready-made cooking from my item bag and I saw Nadia and Lydia gave relieved expressions.

"Hou. That looks quite tasty."

" ... You can have a bite if you want to."

"Really? Then I'll join you for your meal."

I once again wondered if this person who ate together with us like it was natural was really the guildmaster of the Magic Guild Headquarters.

Thus, after we came to the canteen and the four of us had our meals, we then moved to our accommodations.

"We also keep this place clean but it has not been used for a long time. Naturally, the rooms are separated by gender so please rest assured."

“... Why did you say that while looking at me?”

“For some reason or another.”

It can't be helped that I felt irritated looking at his teasing smile.

“Which reminds me, won't the beds and stuff be stiff after such a long time has passed?”

“All of them would have been changed whenever the time for replacement came so you don't have to worry about that.”

“I see.”

They were maintaining it properly so that they can't be criticized.

The room we were led to were 1LDK rooms. (*TL: Basically a studio apartment.*)

It had a simple kitchen and dining room, a spacious living room and a bedroom.

“It's more spacious than the room I use in the church.”

“I'm glad to hear that. Well then, the basic introduction to the Magic Guild ends here.”

“Thank you. Incidentally, how do we get out of the guild? I'd like to exit the Magic Guild and visit the towns to the east west north and south once.”

“That's right~ Well, I'll come along for the first time. Fundamentally, eccentric people gather in Nelldal so it might be slightly tough for first-timers.”

“Okay. Please let me know when you have decided on the schedule. I believe from today on, I'll be coming and going to the Magic training ground and Magic Archive.”

“Fumu. Please make sure to prepare honey mead for me.”

Leaving with that remark, Orford-san went home.

I told the remaining two people the plan for the future.

“We’ll move according to what I told Orford-san just now. Well, we’re probably being monitored and Orford-san can change his appearance so we might not have a chance to feel at ease.”

“Perhaps it might be good to think of some kind of countermeasure?”

“Coping with unknown magic would be difficult.”

The two of them were serious but it was soothing to me.

“In the event he comes to collect information ...”

Thus, going with that feeling, we decided on some simple signs as measures.

“”Understood.””

“Once I’ve finished investigating what I want to investigate, we’ll visit the Magic Guild’s courtyard but please be prepared for battle then.”

“”Yes.””

The two of them replied without asking anything.

While feeling thankful for the two of them, since there was nothing to do in the afternoon, I once again head towards the Magic Archive.

CHAPTER 176

VALUE VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON

After arriving at the Magic Archive, for now, I decided to systematically read all the books that interest me from one end to the other ... or that was the enthusiasm I had but the books that interest me were few and far between.

” ... I still do not understand what exactly is the reason why this place is called the Magic Archive.”

Even though there were books like ‘The correct way to brew black tea’, ‘How to care for planted trees’, and even a series of books of attempts to use various kinds of ores to create OO, the crucial books related to magic was extremely scarce.

And yet the magic books present were only beginner and intermediate level books and rather than call them books, they were merely a collection of several research papers compiled together with a cover attached to them.

“Even the relevant ones are just research papers ... is this kind of neglect excusable? Or did Orford-san think that I was a hindrance ... and set me up since the time he brought me here?”

“I don’t think that is true. There should definitely be something useful among all this.”

“That’s right. Even if Orford-san hated you, no matter how much he hates you, there should be some kind of a clue somewhere.”

Having heard my mutterings, the two of them gave me encouragement.

“Lydia, could you please not say that I am hated so many times consecutively? Since it’s pretty painful mentally. Leaving that aside, did the two of you noticed anything or sensed anything about Orford-san or the Magic Guild?”

I felt that he did not look angry as far as I could tell but the two of them told me while having troubled expressions.

“There wasn’t anything in particular but Luciel-sama has taught us something during the course of our training.”

“Nothing that is done is a waste, stacking up hard work is the best shortcut to success.”

Following Nadia, Lydia also smiled as she nodded.

But I didn’t have any recollection of saying something like that and to begin with, I have not done anything while traveling with them.

“Did I say something like that?”

I was probably making a strange expression.

The two of them laughed as they saw my expression and told me.

“No, it was through your actual battles. Regardless of whether it is a spar with Broad-sama and Lionel-sama or a battle against monsters, you taught us to not give up and to persevere.”

“Because for a Healer to acquire such a level of combat techniques, it was definitely not gained overnight. Furthermore, with such a large number of books here, a method to regain Luciel-sama’s ability must definitely be hidden somewhere within.”

It’s possible that Orford-san hid all the important materials but the worth of an object varies from person to person.

I decided to believe in that.

I wanted to convey my thanks but for some reason I became shy.

“... Thank you.”

Even though I have been fine all along, it felt like I suddenly returned to my adolescence days and I was extremely embarrassed.

However, at the same time, I also felt that I was feeling very happy for some reason but I totally had no idea why.

“Our ability may be poor but please allow us to aid you so let’s do our best and think of this as training.”

“If it’s Luciel-sama who has the courage to stand up against the Evil God, you would definitely accomplish your goal.”

The words from the two of them permeated into my chest.

It seems like I’m a simple man.

My motivation was overflowing from receiving support from the opposite sex.

“Thank you, the two of you. And please lend me your strength.”

“Yes!”

Thus I obtained the cooperation of the two of them and we began fishing through the materials.

Nadia was to investigate regarding attributes, Lydia on chants and I thoroughly investigated the materials regarding magical power and the structure of magic.

We wrote whatever that was of interest onto a piece of parchment and the three of us would discuss it later.

There were many books that were a waste of time to read.

I was feeling optimistic from Nadia and Lydia’s words but after continuing to look at words after a long time, I ended up becoming sleepy.

“No matter how motivated I am, the fact that the hint is hidden somewhere is ...”

Suddenly, a book caught my eye.

My attention was not caught by a book regarding magical power or magic but a paper that earnestly researched on only the ability to raise physical ability in one go.

By circulating magical power within the body at high speeds, it not only strengthens the body but also raises all statuses.

However, it has similar recoil as forcibly drawing out such strength so it is not something that ordinary people can utilize extensively.

“This information came a little too late. So it means that since I’ve lost my Healing Magic, it is no longer acceptable for me to strengthen my body.”

While tsukkomi-ing at the paper, I continued reading further and easily discovered a hint.

Instead of circulating the magical power within the body like mentioned previously, they also apparently did some experiments on utilizing the magical power from outside the body.

I was curious about the outcome so I turned the page and what I saw were plenty of words like ‘failure’, ‘loss’ and ‘explosion’ but successful examples were also described among all that.

“A successful example was when the magical power was dense to the extent that it was visible to others but even with that, there was no physical strengthening ... eh?”

The conclusion was that while it is possible to interfere with magical powers that does not belong to oneself, no matter how well a person can interfere with it, the only variable that changes is how much a person can interfere depending on the skill level of magical power manipulation.

However, there was a remark saying to research the casting of attributed magic by individuals who possess no attributes.

“To use magic even without the attributes, is it referring to casting the magic through magic tools?”

I immediately scrambled for the continuation volume for that book series but after looking through the archive, I could not find it at all.

“It’s either hidden or perhaps the thesis was not evaluated and did not obtain research funding?”

It would be a waste of time to gather the books indefinitely so, after praying to the gods, I went to pick up whichever collections that caught my interest like before.

“Er Luciel-sama, what is with that mountain of books?”

After that, I began thoroughly gathering all the books that interested me.

I replied Nadia’s question with just a smile.

“ ... Moreover, there are even books not related to magic ... what happened?”

But Lydia’s remark that had a hint of saying that my mind has perhaps gone mad was slightly saddening.

“Just now, when I was investigating, I found information that was useful. It was from a book that somehow caught my eye. I tried looking through all the other books which the titles attracted me but they were all useless.”

“So you are only gathering books that catch your attention?”

“ ... It’s not that I don’t understand but that amount is slightly too much.”

The two of them were shocked but they did not criticize my strategy.

They probably did not find any useful or noticeable information on their side.

“ ... I was overjoyed because I found a hint. Well, this is not an amount that I can look through in one go. But I believe that it’s definitely better to look through these instead ...”

When I calmed down, I realized that it was not an amount that can be read in one sitting.

For doing something like that unconsciously, my embarrassment was welling up.

“That’s good to hear. But, I’ve not gotten anything from my side.”

“Me neither.”

The two of them commented in passing but it felt to me that they were slightly tired so I suggested to take a tea break.

“Maybe the two of you should take a rest. The food and drinks here should probably be free so maybe you should return to your rooms to rest.”

“Luciel-sama, do you have any problems with regard to today’s meal?”

Lydia asked in doubt.

Now that she mentioned it, there’s the preparation of food too.

I still had not seen the items inside the warehouse so today would probably be ready-made food too.

“Yeah. Since I still have plenty of ready-made food.”

“If that’s the case then I’ll continue. Since it looks like I can freely use more magic even as a Spirit-user.”

“My job is a Swordswoman so I had given up on magic but I will work hard for the sake of my goal.”

The two of them said that and returned to their work.

While thinking that the two of them might be trying a little too hard, I decided to flip through all the books.

“Instead of tea, I’ll give you two some sweets.”

“Sweets!?”

Perhaps the two of them wanted some sugar but they immediately approached me.

Their speed was amazing so I was slightly taken aback.

“Ye, yeah. It’s a trial product made using honey but I had not had the chance to eat them.”

“Thank you!”

The twins Nadia and Lydia synchronously placed the honey sweets in their mouths and were instantaneously healed, showing extremely content smiles.

Looking at those faces, I suddenly remembered falling in love with two people in my previous life.

Then, to hide my rapidly beating heart, I put the honey sweet into my mouth.

I could not hide my confusion from all my various kinds of desire that have been surfacing due to having lost my Healer job.

CHAPTER 177

PREMONITION

By the time I took a pause from copying down everything I researched, the day had already completely turned dark.

“Two of you, thank you for your hard work. We’ll stop here for today and let’s get dinner.”

“Okay.”

After replying, Nadia held both her hands up and stretched while Lydia collapsed on the desk.

The collections that I carried over numbered over 50 in total but the books that had useful information were all the ones that I picked up using my gut feeling.

The information I obtained were not gathered from a single location but were all found here and there in bits and pieces so it took a tremendous amount of time.

“It’s bothersome to head down to the canteen so is it fine if we have our dinner in my rooms?”

“Alright.”

It’s the same no matter where we ate and the two of them immediately agreed to it after I gave the suggestion.

“For now, let’s return the books to their original locations. It would be troublesome if they found fault with us later.”

“I don’t believe they would go that far but okay.”

“It’s so saddening to be unconditionally hated despite not having done anything wrong.”

“Yeah. Well, think of it as performing the job of a librarian. Let’s do our best and I’ll take out honey water later for our meal.”

“Let’s quickly tidy up.”

“I’m motivated now.”

Since they happily cleaned up, I also began tidying up.

I temporarily kept all the parchments they summarized the information on.

Because I did not want someone to complain about the work the two of them went through all the trouble to search.

Since we used our heads after a long time, I decided to have something with volume for today’s dinner.

We did not encounter anybody along the way until our rooms and the sounds of our footsteps resounded awfully loudly so the corridor was slightly spooky at night.

Thankfully, the lights were lit so I didn’t feel afraid.

“Do you two sense it?”

“Yes. There’s three of them.”

“My magic is already prepped for casting.”

Immediately after we left the Magic Archive, the magical powers that were supposed to be nearby flickered and disappeared but they could not hide something crucial, their presences.

While walking, I continued the conversation.

“Since I don’t sense any kind of malice from them, I basically do not mind ignoring them. What do the two of you think?”

“No problem. The training was only two months but I’m surprised by the amount of proficiency you obtained.”

“Something like that shouldn’t be a problem. It might be an order from Orford-san to monitor us.”

The two of them were not worked up at all and looked like they could deal with it anytime.

“Then, I’ll basically ignore them … oh, we’ve already arrived.”

I saw the room that was assigned to me and it happened as I was about to open the door to the room.

“Er, excuse me. Are you two by any chance Nadia and Lydia from the Bacray Viscount house?”

A woman from the three individuals we noticed called out to us.

The two behind her were also female and it appeared that they follow the woman who spoke.

The three of them looked to be about 20 years of age.

“Elinas-sama from the Meinrich Earl house, long time no see.”

“Elinas-sama, long time no see.”

It seemed like she was an acquaintance of the two of them as they bowed deferentially but I greeted her with only a nod.

Maybe that displeased them as the two aides behind wanted to voice their complaints but Elinas restrained them with her hand.

“Why have the two of you come here?”

She only spoke to the two of them without even looking at me but I guess that was probably the behavior of nobles.

I could tell that she was too obsessed with elitism and lacked prudence.

Judging from the conversation, she was probably a lady from the noble class in the Principality of Blange.

If she came from the Principality of Blange, she would be a noble that possess the power to ask for an audience with the king but an Earl house might be an excellent house that towers above the others.

“We are studying various subjects alongside Luciel-sama who saved our lives.”

“Moreover, we have already abandoned the country and we are now adventurers. More importantly, I’ve come to know for the first time how rude Elinas-sama is.”

The two of them were certainly angry at the woman who ignored me.

The woman and her followers completely stiffened as they did not expect the two of them to say such words.

She was slightly nervous when she called out to them before so maybe she called out to them when she saw them because she was impatient for having not been able to produce results in the Magic Guild?

After thinking up to that point, the two followers would probably behave recklessly ... and to prevent that, the woman grabbed the hands of her followers.

And it was hard to believe but she apologized for what happened earlier.

” ... Please forgive me for my rudeness. I am Elinas Meinrich, the second daughter of Ricarus von Meinrich, the feudal lord of the northeast region of the Principality of Blange.”

She performed a greeting with an elegant curtsy by holding both ends of her skirt.

” ... That’s very polite of you. I am Luciel from the Church Headquarters of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

I also introduced myself and gave a simple bow but I saw their expressions stiffen after I did that.

Moreover, it was all three of them.

” ... Are you all alright?”

“Per, perhaps, you are that Luciel-sama who attained the rank of S-class Healer for the first time in decades?”

“Well, yes. I’m currently only 21 years old though.”

After my reply, it looked like even the two followers who had their arms held since just now were excited as well and they questioned me.

“That Luciel-sama who accomplished the title of Dragon Slayer despite being a Healer?”

Just that phrase alone gave me mental damage. I was uneasy and had no idea how that nickname reached Blange but I was too afraid to ask.

“Did you come to Nelldal to heal somebody?”

” ... No, although I have learned Holy Attribute Magic, I have the aptitude for other attributes so I created the opportunity to study magic in Nelldal.”

Rather than that, I’d like it if they mentioned more about the nicknames.

But my thoughts did not get through to them.

“That’s right! Luciel-sama, would you like to have dinner together at our dining hall?”

Elinas offered as if to say it was a good idea.

But to us who had continually read books all day, this high energy level was ... painful.

Moreover, it was conceivable that it was a trap.

“It’s an honor to be invited by a daughter of the Earl family. Thank you. However, I’m sorry but we just only arrived today so we have a lot of work to be done piled up. So is it all right we have a meal when we have settled down?”

That’s why I refused her offer this time.

It was hard to watch their delighted faces gradually become downhearted but I hardened my heart.

“I understand. If that’s the case, I’ll invite you another day. Nadia, Lydia, let’s take our time to talk next time.”

Elinas said and left via the corridor.

But I could not hear any sound of footsteps so it was probably either their equipment or they were using magic.

“Well then, we’ll be having our meal so come on in.”

” ... That was nerve-wracking. Since Elinas-sama has been called a genius since our time as nobles.”

“Compared to the Evil God, it was not frightening at all.”

Maybe she was feeling pressured because she’s known as a genius magician. But I was bothered by why Lydia would compare her against the Evil God.

“She probably won’t be able to come here without the permission of the kind so she might be shouldering the expectations of her country. Besides that, Lydia, why did you compare the Evil God against her?”

” ... I met her once when my Spirit-user job manifested but she laughed at me saying ‘You can’t cast magic without begging the Spirits huh.’ so I don’t really like her.”

“Hm. Understood. Sorry for making you recall unpleasant memories.”

Then, I opened the lock to the room and entered.

The room was pitch black but when I pressed the switch, the lighting tools all lit up at once and it became bright.

While feeling emotional like I had returned to my previous world with the presence of objects like a switch that can dim the lights, I began preparing the meal.

Though it’s just taking out the dishes and serving them in portions ...

While having our meal, I told them our planned schedule for tomorrow.

“Let’s begin our day tomorrow by organizing the dining hall. We will practice magic after we are done with that. In the afternoon, we will continue what we’ve done today, scrutinize the information in the Magic Archive and gather useful information.”

” ... Yes.””

Worried about their absent-minded replies, I asked them further.

“Do you two feel unwell somewhere? Or do you wish to change the schedule?”

But the reason for their absent-mindedness was a more particular reason.

“Luciel-sama, this honey water is strange.”

“I cannot accept that this is honey water.”

It seemed like Nadia and Lydia had complaints regarding the honey water.

“... What do you mean? This is honey water as far as I know.”

Then, the two of them started trembling.

I don't know any other honey water other than that so I had no choice but to be puzzled.

“Do you know the extent of the value of something like this? What is with this deliciousness.”

“I feel overflowing magical power. This is absolutely not honey water.”

The two of them just stared at the emptied cups that held the honey water without moving.

“... Would you like more?”

“”Yes, please!””

Then, the two of them endlessly lectured me on just how valuable the honey water I offered them just now was.

For this amount of events to happen on the very first day I arrived at Nelldal, I foresaw that various more occurrences would definitely happen from tomorrow onwards and I would have no choice but be dragged into them so I fell into a melancholic mood.

CHAPTER 178

ATTITUDE TO ENDEAVOR

After the harsh lecture from Nadia and Lydia regarding the honey, they returned to their rooms.

... During that time, I topped up their honey water up to five times but they had smiles on their faces from the beginning until the end so it also helped me.

“But, it’s really unexpected. I would never have guessed that the honey water I provided them had recovery ability comparable to that of middle-grade magical power potions. Would it actually have been better if I sold the honey I left with Orford-san?”

Well, originally I would have needed to bring gifts but I did not have the presence of mind to do so at that time so it’s great that I could cover it with what I had in my possession.

I thought as I washed the dishes.

As expected of something thought up by Sir Rainstar, the place came complete with a water supply system and not only that, it even had a toilet and a bath.

Moreover, it was not a unit bath. The toilet and bathroom were separate rooms. (*TL: Unit baths or system baths are unique(?) to Japanese housing. It is basically a prefabricated module that comes with a sink, bathtub and toilet bowl made from one continuous material so it is easy to install and less prone to leakage.*)

I felt like I had to thank him for being so fastidious about maintaining the quality when he built Nelldal.

After I had a leisurely soak in the bath, I rehydrated myself with honey water, laid on my bed and began looking through the materials Nadia and Lydia gathered.

Firstly, it was Nadia's gathered information on attributes but although it was summarized with beautiful writing, there wasn't any new information.

Next, it was the chants Lydia researched on. She wrote about how magic would not be invoked if the wrong wording is used in the chants.

However, that was the only new information and after that, similar to Nadia, there wasn't any other new information.

"Well, no matter how hard we ponder, without hitting a good idea, we won't be able to connect the information to any hints."

I reluctantly proceeded to look through the information I summarized.

If magic is broken down to their mechanisms, it can be divided into magical power attribute, magical power amount and magical power conversion.

Attribute just refers to the attribute, magical power amount refers to the amount of magical power that can be poured in, and magical power conversion is apparently how well the introduced magical power can be redirected into the form of the magic spell.

"Even though one possesses the attribute and can infuse magical power, is it difficult because the person can't convert the magical power? Then why is it possible to utilize magic without any chants? Would a person not be able to utilize magic using No Chant if it is the first time the person sees the magic?"

I once again looked at the information Lydia gathered but for the topic of No Chant, it's described to be for magic that has been invoked more than once before.

But there was a tiny remark stating that there have been factual records whereby an individual was capable of using No Chant in the rare case where the mental image was perfect.

"That's not helpful ... eh? But when I succeeded in developing magic, I'm certain that ..."

It happened just recently but I completely forgot that I developed Sanctuary Barrier and Sanctuary Armor myself.

Hoping to survive even if I encounter the Evil God, I imitated the chant for Sanctuary Circle.

The method that succeeded was when it was as if I was addressing the world, while having a mental image of the completed form of the magic, I felt the magical power within my body convert the magical power outside my body.

Naturally, I did not succeed the first time, I altered the chant countless times and sharpened the image.

But I forgot why did I do it that way. Was it written somewhere when I was learning Holy Attribute Magic?

“If I regain that sensation ... ah, I’m feeling a little tired. I didn’t expect that depending on the way of doing it, it might have been possible to become the strongest magician ... though my condition now is that not to mention invoking any magic attribute, I can’t even pour magical power in despite having the aptitude for the attribute ...”

Looking at this result, instead of having those two continue researching for me, it might be better to let them absorb something by reading whichever book they like.

In the end, I believe that I would one day be able to once again use Healing Magic if I can develop something like the magic tool I had an idea of at the start so deciding that I will visit it if I find a laboratory for such research, I called it a day. (*TL: He’s referring to the remark he read that mentioned to try researching the casting of attributed magic by individuals who possess no attributes, perhaps by using magic tools.*)

The next day, after waking up, I concentrated on performing magical power manipulation and control as usual.

Then, I heard a knocking sound when it was still early in the morning.

“Is it Nadia or Lydia? Or ...”

I looked towards the entrance and heard Orford-san’s voice.

“Luciel-dono, are you awake?”

“Yes.”

When I opened the door, I saw Orford-san hugging a bunch of parchment.

“Oo! Luciel, morning.”

“Good morning, Orford-san. What brings you here this early in the morning?”

“Not much~ after seeing Luciel-dono and the others work so hard for magic training at the training ground yesterday, I wanted to help too. Moreover, after receiving such high-quality honey, I would receive punishment if I don’t do my part.”

Orford-san said and passed me dozens of parchments.

After receiving them, I lightly passed my eyes over them and saw that they were written in closely packed letters.

” ... What kind of materials are these?”

“I worked out the analysis and measures as to why the three of you can’t use magic.”

He had the usual frank smile as yesterday but his complexion was slightly pale.

” ... Did you only watch and not give guidance yesterday because you had something in mind?”

“Umu. Because you looked like you were slightly impatient. Furthermore, it’s not possible to confirm the abilities and personalities of the three of you by just watching you all for a short period of time.”

Just a cursory glance of the bundle of parchments he passed to me told me that there were about 50 of them.

It was easy to imagine the amount of time that had to be spent to write that amount.

While I don’t believe everything, I thought that this person might apparently be a good person.

” ... Incidentally, do you know of any methods to utilize Holy Attribute Magic without possessing an aptitude for the Holy Attribute?”

“That’s an interesting thought. Certainly, such technology exists and something similar to what you want can be found among the magic tools that can even be bought from the streets. However, it would likely not be able to cast Luciel-dono’s magic.”

” ... Is it because of the Holy Attribute magic stones? Or are there other factors?”

Holy Attribute magic stones would probably be top of the line items.

But, life is not that simple.

“Both. I’ve not heard of any Holy Attribute magic stones. Even if there are, you would only be able to engrave a single magic spell into it.”

” ... As expected, it won’t go so smoothly.”

“It’s quite an interesting idea so I’ll try to see if the research laboratory can develop a magic tool capable of assigning attributes. A day might come when Luciel-dono’s wish comes true.”

... Is it just my imagination that he’s like a completely different person compared to yesterday? Did the magical power from the honey reignite Orford-san’s passion towards magic?

As I was having such foolish thoughts, Nadia and Lydia came by.

“”Luciel-sama, Orford-sama, good morning.””

“Ah, morning. Orford-san wrote down his analysis and measures regarding our magic yesterday for both your portions and mine as well.”

“”Thank you very much.””

“Fo fo fo. I didn’t really dislike doing it so don’t mind it.”

He said and laughed but we could only reply with strained laughter.

“I’m not really doing this as an apology but do you want to have breakfast together with us? I’ll provide honey water.”

“?! By all means, please allow me to join you!”

Looking at how Orford-san suddenly became full of energy, I couldn't help but think that honey was more effective against this person compared to Object X.

After we changed location to the dining hall, similar to yesterday's breakfast, I took out the ready-made food from my magic bag and lined them up.

I could have made it on the spot but taking Orford-san's physical condition into consideration, I decided that it would be better to finish breakfast sooner and let him retire to his room.

As a result, Orford-san left looking satisfied after having his breakfast.

He said that he would show up at the training ground like yesterday after taking a nap.

"Now, after we organize the food warehouse, we'll read the information we've received at the Magic Archive. We'll have special magic training at the training ground in the afternoon."

"So he was actually a caring elder."

"And we thought that we were hated."

"Well, we don't know to what extent is the truth so let's remain vigilant."

""Yes.""

After entering the kitchen and cleaning the dishes, it was finally time to open the food warehouse.

"I wonder how exactly do the food ingredients decades ago look like?"

"It would be great if the smell isn't horrible."

It looked like the two of them could not suppress their curiosity and I couldn't help but laugh when I looked at their nervous appearances as they stared at the food warehouse door.

"It's terrible of you to laugh at us."

"Luciel-sama, don't just laugh, please open it."

"Sorry I couldn't help it. Then, I'll be opening it."

A world different from what I had imagined came into sight when I opened the heavy doors to the food warehouse.

titude to endeavor

CHAPTER 179

TRACES LEFT IN THE FOOD STOREHOUSE

Since it was a food warehouse that was said to stop time like a magic bag, I naturally imagined it was one of three choices, either a cool and dark place like a pantry or warehouse or even a dark vortex where you thrust your hand into.

But it was different from my expectations.

“Dra, dragon!!”

The moment I opened the door, a blue dragon was facing our direction.

I unsheathed my Illusionary Sword by conditioned reflex but Nadia stopped me from behind.

“Luciel-sama, that dragon is already dead.”

After hearing that, I calmed down to look and saw that the dragon was lightly floating. Rather, there wasn’t only the dragon, there were various monsters floating about as if in outer space.

” ... Was what I opened really a food warehouse?”

“We won’t know without checking further but aren’t they all edible monsters?”

“Can we do nothing but to wait for death if we mistakenly get trapped inside here?”

“No, it’s written that this place can’t be closed if there are people inside.”

A brand new piece of paper was stuck on the inside of the door.

Written on it was a note that said that the place is set to not close in the event that a living individual with the base race of human is within.

” ... It would be alright if that is true. But, entering here is a bit ...”

I was hesitant to enter that void space.

Nadia guessed so as she removed the hand that was grabbing me and entered the food warehouse.

“Hey, we’re still investigating so it’s dangerous!”

As expected, I can't let her go into such an unknown room alone.

"It's all right. I'll roughly find out what's where, get a grasp of the place and return."

"Ah, I'll go too. Luciel-sama, just in case, please wait here."

Lydia entered the food warehouse with a smile.

I decided to teach Lydia the proverb – the curiosity killed the cat, once she comes back.

I had no choice but to keep watch over the door as I was instructed to but while my attention was grabbed by the floating monsters, there seemed to be several rooms at the back.

But it would be dangerous if all three of us entered so I had no choice but to leave the search of the inside to the two of them and I read through the materials I received from Orford-san.

"I see. That state whereby the body is clad with magical power is the same as discharging magical power out huh."

It was written that the steam-like magical power that can be observed is in a state of being held back as it leaves the body.

"If I raise my magical power endurance, it seems possible that I would be alright even if I face off against an opponent that casts magic. Eh? But if that's the case, then why do I pour my magical power into the Illusionary Cane? I feel that it is somehow important to channel magical power into weapons though ... "

Just as I had that thought, the two of them came out from within the food warehouse with excited looks.

And the two of them were carrying a Big Boar.

"What happened, the two of you look quite pleased? Moreover that Big Boar ... isn't it overly large?"

I have hunted and eaten Big Boars before but this one was two times larger.

"Luciel-sama, there are plenty of monsters here that we've never seen before. I also thought that this was a Big Boar but it is actually the phantom Big Pork which existence could not be confirmed for decades."

Why is it called pork? Or rather, why is this a pig? In this world, pigs should refer to Orcs.

" ... I am not really familiar with ecology but is this Big Pork the ancestor of Orcs or Big Boars?"

"There are various theories around but it's said that the organisms transformed after a long time due to their environment."

"It is also written in the monster book that it is similar to Big Boar in the sense that it is not aggressive, has a timid personality and has extremely strong wariness."

"I see ... I have seasonings so it is possible to dismantle it and store it in my magic bag but ... unfortunately, I can't use purification magic."

When I said that, they clearly showed disappointed expressions.

But I was hesitant to dirty such a clean kitchen with the blood from dismantling.

If I knew beforehand, it would have been great if I brought along a Healer but that's impossible with the limit to the number of people I could bring.

" ... We'll eat it after I regain my Holy Attribute Magic. There seem to be various other rare ingredients but we'll postpone it all. Then, I'll take a look around too so please watch the door."

" ... Yes."

The two of them sent me off downheartedly.

When I turned around and entered the food warehouse, I felt my body enter weightlessness.

"Is, isn't this bad?"

For some reason, my sense of security disappeared just because I left the surface.

How did the two of them freely move about in this place?

When I tried hard to go forward, I started moving straight forward like normal.

"Eh? So it's possible to move with the power of intention!"

I felt euphoric from that sense of freedom but then I realized the two of them didn't immediately come out after entering.

That meant that time passes here when the door is open so I quickly moved to the rooms at the back.

“I feel like I’m flying.”

It felt like the moment to say those customary words as I seemed to be floating.

For some reason, there were seasonings placed in the third room to the right.

Not to mention soy sauce and miso, there was quite a considerable stock including sugar, salt, and even pepper.

” ... Were the ones who made these the Magic Guild staff? Clearly ... no way.”

It was such a rare chance so, for tasting, I took and stored the soy sauce and miso in my magic bag in separate earthenware pots.

Other than that, there was also ketchup sauce and mayonnaise stock for some reason.

” ... I don’t know how much effort and time must have been spent to make so much ketchup sauce but the fact that not much has decreased means that ...”

I silently left that room and moved to the center room.

Then, when I opened the door, I saw a huge stock of vegetables.

” ... This is not an ordinary amount. Well, the world can’t be saved even with this amount. Though it might be enough for a person to live for decades or centuries ...”

Even though it’s a different era, after coming to know of Sir Rainstar’s existence, I ended up thinking ‘Isn’t he capable of solving all the problems?’

And I also ended thinking that in the era when he was still alive, he was most probably seen as a local god-like existence?

Even though he was continually subjected to pressure all the time, he could still turn up with results so he was probably a heroic existence.

While having such thoughts, I stored a couple of vegetables in my magic bag and I had no problems since there were almost no vegetables that I didn’t know.

“Now then, let’s go to the last room.”

And I was shocked when I opened the last room.

“Why is there a jungle in the middle of a room?”

Paula created a pseudo-sun underground in Ienith but the level here was fundamentally different.

Firstly, a pseudo-space was created and stabilized using Space-time magic. Even if the person who created the room was a reincarnated individual, I wondered why did he make a jungle appear in the room.

When I entered the room, I saw several fruits that could already be harvested.

“This was not made by Sir Rainstar. Only Elves can make trees grow to this extent. If that’s the case, there’s a high chance that it was the Pope’s mother who made this. Maybe I should take something back as a souvenir for Pope-sama when I return?”

It was when I was about to return after looking around.

A golden fruit suddenly entered my sight and behind it, I noticed a small tree and when I approached it, I saw a pure white fruit similar to the shape of an apple growing on it.

“ ... A fruit that somehow has more presence than a golden fruit, it looks like it might be of help to me. It would be a misstep if it is a poison apple but poison is ineffective against me so I’ll try eating it later.”

After harvesting the pure white fruit and storing it in my magic bag, I channeled magical power into the tree I pluck the fruit from.

Doing so, I felt my magical power decrease just slightly and while soaking in my own self-satisfaction, I left the food warehouse.

“Luciel-sama, you were inside for quite some time.”

“Did you discover something inside?”

I don’t know what kind of ingenious method they used but the Big Pork was already dismantled and the edible portion was separated from the other portions.

Even though they dissected it, for there to not be a single drop of blood, I could only think that they perfectly performed an extraordinary blood draining process.

Even though our conversation leaned towards the direction to not dismantle it, did they want to eat the Big Pork that badly?

I almost sighed from how much the women in this world love sweet things and meat.

They cleanly finished the dismantling and I could not think of any complaints so I decided to answer their questions.

“I gathered seasonings, vegetables and one pure white fruit.”

“Did the pure white fruit look delicious?”

“No, it’s just like a poison apple but I have resistance to poison so I wanted to try eating it. Would you like to try?”

“No thanks.”

The two of them decline in harmony.

While looking at their ordinary reactions, we were able to confirm that the food warehouse was well-stocked to an extraordinary degree.

For that reason, I decided to cook here from now onward.

We all thought about the menu for lunch and dinner together.

I definitely want it grilled with ginger and have miso soup with pork and vegetables ... but it was also hard to discard the thought of pork shabu so I thought about that as we moved towards the Magic Archive.

When we arrived at the Magic Archive, the three-person group from yesterday was waiting for our arrival.

“Good morning. Um, Meinrich-san.”

“Good morning, Luciel-sama. You may call me Elinas.”

“I see, so, how can I help you?”

“I’ve reached a slight impasse so I wish to request for your help.”

“I’m sorry but at the moment I have an order from Pope-sama so I have to prioritize that. Please allow me to decline.”

I said and was about to pass through their side when Elinas-san muttered something.

I turned back to look at Nadia and Lydia but they had suddenly stopped with astonished expressions.

I couldn’t catch what she said so I asked her.

It would be disastrous if she told me some kind of diplomatic problem.

“... What did you say? Sorry but I didn’t catch it so could you please repeat it once again?”

When I asked, her face turned bright red and she spoke while looking like she was about to cry.

“... I have no more money. My research funds have reached rock bottom and I can’t even buy the ticket to enter the Magic Archive. So could you please lend me money?”

“Eh?”

I was shocked to hear that unexpected request.

She should be receiving monetary support from the country as long as she is here.

What does it mean if she doesn’t have that?

“Shouldn’t you have money transferred from your home country?”

Nadia asked in my stead.

Since it was their home country, they were probably curious about this incident.

“That ...”

As Elinas looked like she was having a hard time answering, the woman waiting behind her to the side answered.

“It has been about one year since we came to Nelldal. We have used about 10 white gold coins and the grant money that was delivered has been used up completely. We want to receive additional financing but without a single result to show ...”

I could understand even if she didn’t continue.

“There should be others who came from Blange as well?”

When I asked that, the woman on the other side answered.

“The nobles in my country hold each other back so that the other person’s territory does not increase so ...”

She didn’t complete her sentence but I understood what she wanted to convey.

While I was troubled by what to do, Nadia and Lydia bowed their heads for some reason.

“For now, we’ll be studying inside for the morning so we can enter together this time but please discuss with Nadia and Lydia for the future.”

“Tha, thank you very much. As expected of the Apostle of the God of Healing.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“In the Principality of Blange, Luciel-sama’s name is attached to that title. You declared that you would lead the leadership of the Healer’s Guild and reform it. A person who is capable of making slave merchants and corrupt healers his enemy which can’t normally be done. There are also various other ...”

Shit, I don’t want to listen to any more.

“It’s fine. Let’s enter.”

I escaped to the Magic Archive but my stomach hurt for some reason from looking at the appearances of those five people who looked like they found it a little regretful.

CHAPTER 180

IN ORDER TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE

After we entered the Magic Archive, we separated from the three of them and I began reading the parchment where Orford-san wrote down various conjectures and points for improvements.

When I continued reading from where I left off just now, I ran into contradicting information.

Why is it that when I allow magical power to discharge out of my body, my magical power doesn't decrease? Even after taking into account the magical power recovery amount, there's no way I would have enough magical power to continue discharging it. (*TL: He's referring to the previous chapter. The magic where he clad his body with magical power for protection is also the same as discharging magical power out*)

Moreover, when I activate Body Strengthening, my magical power definitely decreases, albeit only a little.

There was no explanation written regarding that.

" ... It would be too convenient to wish for details to that extent."

But when I turned to the next sheet, my excitement level suddenly rose.

This was recorded in it.

In this world, people who can send flying slashes apparently exist and they apparently load the magical power within themselves into a blade to allow it to fly.

If Luciel-dono can master such flying slashes, you should be able to use a ranged attack that is considerably powerful that utilizes less magical power compared to attacking with unskilled magic.

However, it would probably require a weapon that has sufficient strength to withstand Luciel-dono's magical power and have high magical power conductivity to allow smooth magical power conversion like that cane you use.

Since I have the Illusionary sword, as long as I can examine the phenomenon of how exactly a flying slash can actually happen, I'll be able to deal long-range attacks.

It's a different issue altogether but that was the most promising information since I lost my Holy Attribute Magic.

It's the flying slash that I've seen Shisho and Lionel release countless times during training.

I couldn't help but feel excited when I thought of the possibility of me sending those flying slashes.

If it's now, I felt like I could endure whatever hardship that came my way.

When I read the materials further, I saw that he even wrote down the investigation on flying slashes.

Channel all the magical power that is discharged out into a sword and interfere with the magical power outside the body with the image of launching the sword ... written after that were technical terms so I gave up on trying to understand it.

But that slightly gave me hope for my wish to die of old age.

My goal was the revival of my Holy Attribute or Healing Magic but I took into consideration the premise that I would have to fight someday.

While supporting a bitter smile, I continued reading the materials and this time, my expression stiffened.

An aptitude in the Holy Attribute is required to change job to a Healer.

If the Healer job is not available despite having the aptitude, there is a high chance that the person is controlled by strong hate or negative feelings greater than his desire to help others.

If the Healer job is not available even after resolving that, it means that it is the fate that has been determined by the Chief God Kuraiya and the God of Healing so there is no option but to accept it.

Negative feelings that are stronger than the feeling for others and controlled by hatred ...? I don't think so.

I may even have unconsciously thought of running away the next time I encounter the Evil God.

Even so, I can confidently say that I had chosen the best option at that time and I would even like to praise myself for achieving that.

If that's the case, it might be my destiny.

... If I can't become a Healer, the only other jobs that can utilize Holy Attribute Magic are Priest, Paladin, Sage, Saintess and Hero.

Among them, the only one I have a possibility of getting used to would only be Sage.

Described on the last sheet of material was the person who became a Sage a hundred years in the past.

That person was given the blessing by all six Spirits, Light, Darkness, Fire, Water, Earth and Wind. However, it took too much of his life to raise all the magic of the basic four attributes to level X.

Then, the golden fruit that grows on the World Tree that only blooms once in a thousand years ... he ate the white fruit that grows on the Tree of Philanthropy that blooms once in a hundred years near the World Tree and the door to the Sage job was opened to him.

However, the Sage only had a single thing to say during his later years.

He would have been able to reach the Sage job sooner if he had created the drink called Object X sooner ...

“Ha? Didn’t he make Object X after becoming a Sage?”

Nadia and Lydia looked over when I inadvertently voiced my thoughts out so I waved my hand to show that it was nothing.

I was shocked by the information of his reason for developing Object X but that means he began to belong to the Healer’s Guild after he was a Sage?

While discovering an unexpected fact, I wondered if I would receive the blessing if I went to the fountain and met the Wind Spirit.

If I acquire the blessing, I’ll proceed with the plan to eat the white fruit and reach the Sage job.

Would I really be able to use Holy Attribute Magic if my job becomes a Sage?

Such doubts and uneasiness pressed down upon me.

Feelings of doubt as to whether it was alright to just swallow all the information that Orford-san investigated for me also surfaced.

When I had that thought, I suddenly realized.

Was that wall around my heart due to my doubts the negative feelings that cause me to not be able to use Holy Attribute Magic? At the start when I was able to use Holy Attribute Magic, even though I was in denial because it looked like it would be full of hardship, I thought that it would somehow work out and thought of it from a positive aspect.

Perhaps my defensive instinct kicked in when my Holy Attribute pretense was peeled off ...

Just like my dark sales era when I couldn’t sell anything ...

A negative spiral that caused me to see everything as my enemy.

I thought of my boss, seniors, colleagues and even my juniors as my enemies.

When I looked up after sighing, I saw Nadia and Lydia and muttered my favorite motto at that time.

“True strength can only be built from hard work. Luck is just a trigger, without hard work, one would not even notice an opportunity. It is up to yourself to make use of the opportunity.”

It was my favorite motto that I made by mixing the story about luck-chan that my senior told me during the darkest period in my sales and the quote from an athlete that girl who was transferred to General Affairs told me.

It was slightly long but I always muttered it whenever I was lost after hitting a wall.

There might be times when one is seriously unlucky but an equal amount of lucky times certainly exist too.

But luck has a shy personality so it is always hiding.

For those who prepare for it by laying a foundation with steady effort, they may be able to occasionally get a glimpse of luck and opportunities will come visiting.

So all the hard work you did until now will be tested. Everyone is doing their best.

Then what is needed to achieve results? It is the confidence that you yourself have firmly done what you had to do without deviating from it.

By doing so, you gain fortitude in your heart, your outlook widens and new luck will come to you.

” ... Thinking about that, although I take pride in pouring my heart and soul into combat training, I realize that I have not done much hard work in Holy Attribute Magic apart from magic chants.”

Some degree of room might have been born in my heart since the guidepost that leads to the Sage job has appeared.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I decided to go meet the Wind Spirit after I gain confidence by deepening my knowledge in magic and attributes.

From that day, while studying hard like a student about to take a test, I continued to train my body.

CHAPTER 181

DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE GOD OF DESTINY

About three months since the day I hardened my resolve, I had vigorously looked through the books that were untouched in the Magic Archive and accumulated various kinds of knowledge.

Even Nadia and Lydia, as if having been influenced by how I had broken through my doubts, had energetically practiced magic and have become able to invoke magic, albeit only at the elementary level.

Of course, I was also concurrently training to launch flying slashes at the training ground and I lured Orford-san to get his advice using honey but it had not led to good results on my side.

In the first place, apart from knowing that flying slash is a high-level sword skill, I do not know if there might be any other skills required.

However, mysteriously, my impatient feelings had gradually faded away.

This environment where I studied together with Nadia and Lydia was probably the safest one I had since I came to this world.

I worked hard towards my goals while the two of them cheered me on.

I wasn't lonely or rather, the two of them were working harder than I was so I also had the desire to not be outdone by them.

On a certain day within those repetitive days of training, I alone was called to the guildmaster's room.

“Excuse me.”

“Sorry for calling you over so suddenly.”

Orford-san welcomed me and we entered the mirror.

Even after taking our seats, Orford-san didn't really speak so having run out of patience, I asked about what matter he had in mind.

"Orford-san, since you suddenly wanted to speak alone with just the two of us, is there some urgent matter?"

"Fumu. Regarding the flying slash, it seems like it will be solved given some time."

He entered the topic about training without entering the main topic so perhaps he understood something about the flying slash.

"I agree. But this is all thanks to Orford-san. Did you wish to talk because you understood something regarding the flying slash?"

"No, this time I called you to share your prized mead."

"Eh? Don't tell me that is the business you have with me today?"

Orford-san had not called me like this until now for three months so I took a blow to my face.

Why? That word floated above my head.

Smiling at that sight, Orford-san looked outside the window and said.

"Fumu. Tonight is a full moon so it is easier for me to make an appearance."

Me(ore)? Hasn't he been referring to himself as me(washi)? Was he perhaps feeling uplifted due to the full moon?

"I don't really mind offering it to you if you only want to drink it together here ..."

"You understand me."

Orford-san pressed me with a truly delighted smile but as gratitude for what he has done daily, I took out two glasses and filled them with mead.

"Then should we have a toast?"

"Okay."

""Cheers."""

Orford-san downed the mead in one go just as I was taking a sip of it.

At that instant, the mechanical sound reverberated in my head.

《Divine Protection of the Wind Spirit acquired》

“Ha?”

It was way too sudden so I was shocked stiff.

“Fo, fo, fo. Mead sure is delicious. I’d love to have seconds?”

Orford-san requested for mead as he made fun of my humorous appearance while looking like he was delighted with the success of his prank.

“Eh? Ah, okay. I’m fine with giving you seconds but Orford-san was the Wind Spirit all along?”

“No. I borrowed Orford-san’s body today.”

I was confused by his words.

Was it perhaps not the first time the Wind Spirit replaced Orford-san? My thoughts were swallowed by a vortex of confusion.

I somehow poured mead into the Wind Spirit’s glass as I asked it about the matter this time.

“Erm, why did you choose this timing?”

“That’s what I want to ask! Why was it that even after I secretly slipped in the information to become a Sage inside the materials from Orford, you did not appear at the fountain no matter how much time passed? You even searched the location of the fountain so did you come up with something else?”

It suddenly burst out in anger but it seemed like Spirits can write too.

While I had that thought as I escaped from reality, I told it my true reason.

" ... I did consider immediately becoming a Sage and regaining my Holy Attribute Magic when I received that hint. But I was anxious as to whether I would really once again regain my use of Holy Attribute Magic once I become a sage. So I wanted to start by regaining my self-confidence."

" ... Well, I guessed so. Since you have received my divine protection, you have acquired the divine protection of all six Spirits. It would take a longer time to completely master all the basic attributes compared to the amount of time you took to achieve this."

The Wind Spirit said and looked at me enchanting eyes like the abyss but I thought of a question.

"Erm, what about the white fruit?"

"It's up to your luck once you reach the vicinity of the World Tree. However, dragons are scattered all about in the ancient forest where the World Tree is so with your current ability, you will certainly die."

... I'd prefer not to go get it even if I have the flawless Shisho and Lionel with me.

But what exactly is that fruit I picked three months ago in the food warehouse? Was it just my own selfishness when I felt that I wanted that white fruit?

I became curious as to just how strong the previous Sage was.

He was probably not a healer originally?

One question after the other sprung up so I decided to first try asking how did the previous Sage who made Object X get the white fruit.

" ... By the way, how did the previous Sage obtain the white fruit?"

"The pope Fluna gave it to him. Because she needed a Sage at that time."

The Wind Spirit faced away from me and looked outside.

That profound behavior and phrasing made me extremely curious but did Pope-sama want an absolute symbol for the church or did she desire power?

I felt that it didn't want to talk anymore so I asked the point that was bothering me the most.

" ... Do you think I will be able to use Holy Attribute Magic like before if I became a Sage?"

" ... To be honest, I don't know."

The Wind Spirit shook its head.

" ... It's described that a Sage can use all magic but is that wrong?"

"Normally, only those who dedicated their whole lives to the pursuit of magic and gained enormous knowledge can promote to the job called Sage. Since they possess the aptitudes and walk the path of magic, it can't be helped that it's thought that they can use all magic."

It replied while looking troubled as it stroked its long beard.

Well, I could certainly imagine that it wasn't a job that could be reached easily when I heard the job title 'Sage'.

" ... In other words, it might eventually return but the path to become a Sage is long and protracted?"

"Fumu. Only individuals who have received the blessings of Gods can achieve it through another way. Moreover, you possess the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons right?"

" ... Don't tell me there are adverse effects?"

I suddenly felt uneasy like I could not breathe as I focused my hearing to not mishear anything.

Then, I could hear auditory hallucinations of the overture of despair.

"That is probably why you can't use magic attributes no matter how much you chant."

"Ha?"

"The divine protection of dragons creates a strong physical body while the divine protection of Spirits makes it difficult to use magic apart from Spirit Magic."

It said like it was unfortunate but for some reason, it felt like its mouth was smiling.

It was probably paranoia but I could hear the loud crumbling sounds of the collapse of my Holy Attribute Magic.

"... Er, isn't that a dead end for me?"

"You can still become a Sage if you become a Spirit-user and master spirit magic?"

People like that can only be found in stories.

"... Are you referring to Sir Rainstar?"

"Ho. You even knew that Rain was a Sage. Interesting."

"... That person is an exception. Is it even possible for me to master Spirit Magic?"

"Well, it's normally impossible. But, don't you have the divine protection of the God of Destiny?"

"... Yes. But that only increases my acquisition of SP?"

I wondered why the Wind Spirit's voice changed to a lighter tone?

Do Spirits enjoy the misfortune of others?

But, the Wind Spirit revealed unique information.

"Fofof, that is nothing more than just a by-product. That is the greatest divine protection that is capable of severing the misfortune of the destiny that has originally been decided for you, leaving only the struggle for life."

"Doesn't that mean it was meaningless for me to acquire the Great Luck and Supreme Luck skills?"

Was it wrong to have placed respect in Great Luck-sensei and Supreme Luck-sensei?

But this time the Wind Spirit looked at me like it was exasperated and sighed.

"Ha~. No matter how capable the divine protection is in repelling adversity, without those two, you would have died without even seeing the light when you fought the Evil God."

Hearing those words, I was somewhat relieved.

"It's great that it wasn't a waste. Since I depend on those two skills."

“You depend on luck in the end?”

“ ... Is that weird?”

“Fofof, I see. If it’s the hardworking you, the day you become a Sage may come some day ... fofofof.”

Looking at the Wind Spirit laughing out loud for some reason, I decided that I would eat the white fruit I obtained when I face the dragons.

Also, I asked it about the phrase Sir Rainstar told me to shout at the fountain to meet the one who would lend me its power when I talked with him at Rockford.

“It’s a different topic but if I shouted ‘I am Wind-sama, the strongest and the fastest in the world and the one who controls the world’ at the fountain, would you have helped me?”

“ Where did you hear that from?”

A heavy atmosphere fell on the Wind Spirit like it was in despair.

“At Rockford.”

“ I entrusted an aerial boat to him but that Rain left behind an outrageous bomb.”

The Wind Spirit trembled before it eventually looked at me and spoke.

“I would cancel your divine protection if you say that to anybody. Not only that, I would spread rumors to the whole world that Luciel can’t use magic. If you don’t want that, forget that immediately.”

I could do nothing but nod due to the intense intimidation it emitted.

“Good ... Then, you can meet the Wind Dragon and Water Dragon tomorrow. You can ask about how to use the power of dragons from the dragons themselves.”

“They have not received the curse of the Evil God?”

“I’ve also not met them for decades but I’ve not felt any changes.”

“It would be great if that is true ...”

“Well then, I would be thankful if you would allow me to enjoy more mead tonight.”

The Wind Spirit said as it continued to drink the mead.

The next day, we headed for the location of the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon.

CHAPTER 182

GUARDIANS

The next day after I drank together with Orford-san ... or rather, with the Wind Spirit, while having breakfast in the cafeteria assigned for the Saint Schull Allied Nations with Nadia and Lydia, I told them the plans for the day.

“We will visit the Magic Guild fountain today. There’s a possibility of it becoming a battle for the first time in a long while so please brace yourselves.”

“We’ll be meeting the Wind Spirit right. It would be great if it grants me its power too ...”

Lydia said with a slightly nervous expression.

” ... The fact that you are asking us to prepare for battle means that there’s a chance we might encounter the dragons that maintain Nelldal in the air right. Despite holding the title Dragon Priestess, I have only received a revelation from Dragon God-sama once so I’m delighted to meet the dragons.”

“Luciel-sama, are you able to release the dragons without your Holy Attribute Magic?”

While looking at the excited Nadia, Lydia was extremely worried as she calmly assumed the situation where we would have to fight the dragons.

I could fully understand Lydia’s worries and I am not as foolhardy as to stroll into the dragons’ stronghold without any countermeasures.

My life hung by a thread when I fought with the Earth Dragon and the Thunder Dragon so it would likely be extremely difficult no matter how perfect my condition is if I have to face both the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon together this time.

That’s why I could only pray that both the dragons have not fallen under the Evil God’s curse ...

As insurance, I also calculated that the two dragons might not turn violent if I am with the Dragon Priestess Nadia.

Of course, I intend to protect them to the end if it became a battle.

That's why I must once again be capable of using Holy Attribute Magic.

I answered Lydia's question as I took out the white fruit from my magic bag.

"To be honest, I have no idea. That's why to increase that probability, I will now eat this."

Nadia gave a dubious expression when she saw the white fruit and asked.

"... Is that apple even fit for consumption?"

"I, I'd prefer if you don't eat that."

Following that, Lydia distanced herself from the white fruit.

"There's no need to run away. Well, if I'm lucky, I will probably become a Sage after eating this. I will think about it when the time comes if I don't regain my Holy Attribute Magic."

"Although it's not ominous, isn't it tough to stand beside something with such overwhelming presence?"

"Luciel-sama, I've not heard of stories about obtaining a job just by eating an item. I believe it would be better if you don't do it."

I could not feel the pressure from the white fruit.

But it's not impossible that the two of them felt that way.

Because why did the Sage develop Object X? ... It was for the sake of eating this.

Last night, just to be safe, I tried asking the Wind Spirit about the dangers of eating the white fruit and I was told that it would cause deadly poisoned state, paralysis, confusion, petrification, weakness, magic seal and revival of the consumer's past trauma.

For that reason, for humans without Mental Resistance Lv X, there is apparently a chance of turning insane.

I suffered the whole night thinking about it because of that but thankfully I have cleared all the conditions so I decided to eat it.

“Only people with resistance can eat this. Object X was apparently developed for the sake of eating this.”

“... Object X.”

The two of them further backed away another step.

It looked like the two of them have both drank Object X before.

Well, Grandol has the Adventurer’s Guild Headquarters so it won’t be surprising if they had to drink it as a baptism to register as an Adventurer.

Since there wasn’t a proper way to eat it, I prepped myself by drinking Object X before biting into the white fruit.

Maybe because I drank Object X beforehand but there wasn’t any taste or smell so I was able to eat it without any resistance contrary to what I had imagined.

And when I finished eating the whole fruit without any troubles ... ?

“Luciel-sama, do you feel any discomfort in your body?”

“... He drank Object X like it was normal ...”

Nadia looked like she was worried about my body but Nadia had a face of disbelief that I drank Object X.

“I don’t feel any discomfort. Rather than that, I totally don’t feel any changes despite eating it ...”

Even when I tried by opening my status, I could not use Holy Attribute Magic as usual and there wasn’t an additional entry for Sage in my job list either.

I staggered from the shock.

Perhaps that wasn’t the white fruit after all?

Perhaps it was actually a considerably delicious fruit but Object X had destroyed the taste?

Just that thought caused my body to tremble all over and strength left my body.

Just the thought of having to go through decades of training and travel to the World Tree that dragons nest in caused my vision to rapidly darken.

I collapsed but recalling that I am in front of Nadia and Lydia, I willed myself to stand up.

But I completely could not gather strength in my body.

Perhaps I could not balance my thoughts and my physical body.

I had no other choice but to take a deep breath and first open my eyes but then I felt a sense of discomfort.

I thought that the pitch black darkness was simply because my eyes were shut but my eyes were open the whole time.

Then, my consciousness gradually returned. I noticed that the surrounding landscape was moving little by little.

"... Where is this?"

It seemed that my five senses were working normally.

"Will Nadia and Lydia not wake up?"

But the two of them showed no reaction. My heart rate was rising probably because I was gradually falling into confusion.

Then, I saw a black vortex in front of me.

Dazzling lights shone on the world and the black vortex completely disappeared, leaving a pure white space.

Then, four spheres appeared in front of my eyes.

The colors were white, scarlet, earth and yellow so I could immediately imagine it.

“Holy Dragon, Flame Dragon, Earth Dragon and Thunder Dragon?”

As if responding to my voice, beginning from the Holy Dragon, the heads of the Flame Dragon, Earth Dragon and Thunder Dragon appeared and lined up.

Although it really was only the head portions, they were still extremely huge so they still had considerable impact.

“Long time no see Luciel. It seems like you have smoothly pursued the path towards Sage so I am relieved.”

The Holy Dragon spoke to me.

Moreover, its pronunciation was a lot better.

” ... I didn't follow the path because I wanted to pursue it! ... Holy Dragon, I wanted to thank you if I met you again. I would be dead without the bones and scales that you left behind. Thank you.”

“Kakaka. So dutiful. Even though you doubted me so much during that time.”

The Holy Dragon spoke happily but it reminded me of when I was in that extreme condition.

” ... I'd prefer if you don't bring up my youthful impulsiveness.”

Then, the Flame Dragon cut into the conversation.

“Holy Dragon, we don't have much time. Well, I want to praise you for finding the Dragon God Priestess but to think that you even found the younger sister with the Spirit God's divine protection ...”

It looked like they knew about Nadia and Lydia but perhaps they have been viewing my situation through their divine protection on me after all?

“Flame Dragon, let's stop there. Luciel, this world also recognizes bigamy so if you can't decide, you can just marry the both of them.”

The Holy Dragon interrupted to pacify the situation but then the Earth Dragon cut in.

“Luciel, stick with just the Dragon God Priestess. The dragon race is supreme. Now then, there’s no time so I will announce the main subject. You will probably be a Sage when you wake up. However, you will not be able to use magic apart from Holy Attribute Magic.”

“Eh!?”

As expected, I could not conceal my surprise and I was about to ask the meaning to the words it said but then the Thunder Dragon continued.

“The times has not changed much from the time we have been born in this world of Galdardia. Within that long months and years, the humans who have acquired both divine protection from Dragons and Spirits can be counted in a handful.”

Well, I understood that it was special.

If humans held that many divine protections, the value of divine protections would probably decrease ...

Then, this time, the Holy Dragon continued the topic.

“Among those who acquired those divine protections, without exceptions, they all passed away without becoming capable of using said power. However, only one person appeared who could join our power and the Spirit’s power and use it.”

There was probably only one such person.

” ... You are referring to Sir Rainstar?”

“The conversation will be faster since you know. Do you have the necklace that incorporates our souls?”

“I’ve kept it in my cherished magic bag?”

“Wear it around your neck. And call our names when you release magic. If you do so, the power of supremacy thou seeks will awaken.”

” ... Nonono, what I wish for is to once again use Holy Attribute Magic.”

Even though I obtained Supreme Luck, I have not even a millimeter of desire to become a Supreme ruler.

“What, such an insignificant thing.”

Having heard me, the Holy Dragon muttered in an extremely trivial tone and the same time it winked, a pale white light entered my body.

My body became warm.

“Hn? It’s about time. Luciel, if you father kids, I’ll give them divine blessings.”

The Flame Dragon said.

“It’s regrettable but it can’t be helped. Luciel, don’t forget that the dragon tribe is supreme.”

The Earth Dragon left with the words that dragons are supreme no matter what.

“The next time I meet Luciel would probably be when you have an audience with Dragon God-sama.”

The Thunder Dragon’s kindness permeated my heart while lastly, the Holy Dragon said the set phrase.

“I pray that you release my captured brethren in this world and prevent the invasion of the demon race.”

“Wait a minute, don’t just smoothly add the mission to stop the invasion of the demon race.”

“””Farewell.””””

The four dragons ignored me and once again turned into light spheres and emitted light.

“Ugh.”

“Luciel-sama, did it make you feel bad as expected?”

“It’s because you ate an unknown food together with Object X. Sister, weren’t we supposed to stop him?”

It seemed like I had returned to reality along with the dazzling light and time had not passed for some reason.

The two of them began to worry as I remained silent so I told them I was fine before once again checking my status.

If the Holy Dragon and others were real just now, I thought as I looked at my status and froze.

And for some reason, sweat began to fall from my eyes.

That's right, I accomplished the job change from Healer to Sage.

Furthermore, there was another more important change.

"Yes!—"

I was shouting out loud by the time I noticed.

I explained to the two people with blank looks due to shock from my behavior that my job change to Sage has come true and more importantly, my Holy Attribute Magic has been restored.

CHAPTER 183

REGAINED POWER AND NEW POWERS

There was hardly any changes in my status.

Only my job changed from Healer X to Sage I and Holy Attribute Magic was no longer grayed out.

My 'Divine Protection from the Spirits' had changed to 'Divine Protection from the Six Spirits' but because my level had not risen, there weren't many changes to my attributes compared to a couple months ago.

However, maybe because I kept swinging my sword every day this three months, my Sword Mastery level rose.

Name:	Luciel	LV:	193
Job:	Sage I	HP:	7310 (20↑)
	Faith Dragon Knight IV (Four Attribute Dragon Knight) (1↑)	MP:	5300 (30↑)
Age:	21		
STR:	852 (2↑)	INT:	966 (5↑)
VIT:	932	MGI:	962 (3↑)
DEX:	801	RMG:	960 (6↑)
AGI:	825	SP:	86

【Skills】

[Proficiency Appraisal -]	[Great luck -]
[Supreme Luck -]	[Limit Break -]
[Taijutsu VI]	[Sword Mastery VI](1↑)
[Spear Mastery IV]	[Shield Mastery IV]
[Archery I]	[Twin Spear Sword Technique IV]
[Throwing VI]	[Footwork VIII]
[Magical Power Manipulation X]	[Magical Power Control X]
[Magical Power Amplification III]	[Body Strengthening VI]

[Chant Shortening IX]	[Chant Termination VII]
[No Chant IV]	[Magic Circle Chant V](1↑)
[Multiple Chant III]	[Holy Magic X]
[Meditation IX]	[Concentration IX]
[Leadership III]	[Danger Perception VIII]
[Presence Perception V]	[Magical Power Perception V]
[Search for Enemy I]	[Dismantling IV]
[Horse Riding III]	
[Parallel Thinking VII]	[Thought Acceleration III]
[Spatial Awareness II]	
[Trap Sensing IV]	[Trap Detection III]
[Trap Disarming III]	[Cartography V]
[HP Recovery IX]	[MP Recovery IX]
[HP Increased Rate of Growth IX]	[MP Increased Rate of Growth IX]
[STR Increased Rate of Growth IX]	[VIT Increased Rate of Growth IX]
[DEX Increased Rate of Growth IX]	[AGI Increased Rate of Growth IX]
[INT Increased Rate of Growth IX]	[MGI Increased Rate of Growth IX]
[RMG Increased Rate of Growth IX]	[Physical Ability Increased Rate of Growth VII](1↑)
[Poison Resistance IX]	[Weakness Resistance IX]
[Paralysis Resistance IX]	[Magic Seal Resistance IX]
[Petrification Resistance IX]	[Disease Resistance IX]
[Sleep Resistance IX]	[Blunt Damage Resistance VII]
[Charm Resistance VII]	[Bewitch Resistance IX]
[Curse Resistance IX]	[Mental Resistance X]
[Slash Resistance IX]	[Pierce Resistance VII]
[Intimidation Resistance V]	
【Titles】	
[One who changed their destiny]	All status +10
[God of Destiny's divine protection]	Increased SP acquisition

[Holy Healing God's blessing]	Potency of Holy attribute healing magic increased by 1.5 times
[Divine protection from many Dragons]	Strengthened Holy, Flame, Earth, Lightning offensive and defensive attributes. Rise in combat skills and status. It is now possible to converse with the dragon race
[Divine protection from the Six Spirits]	Strengthened Water, Earth, Fire, Light, Darkness offensive and defensive attributes. Grant and support of attributes. (<i>New description was not given in this chapter</i>)
[Dragon (<i>Oriental Dragon</i>) Slaughter]	Proof of having slain more than one dragon. Strengthened offense and defence against dragons 龍 and their kin
[Dragon race (<i>Japanese Dragon</i>) Slayer]	Strengthened offense and defence against dragons 竜
[Giant Slayer]	Strengthened offense and defence against giants
[Magical beast Slayer]	Strengthened offense and defence against magical beasts
[One who repelled the Evil God]	Against the demon race and monsters
[One who unleashed the seals]	Immune to the curse of the evil god. Capable of acquiring the power of the sealed dragons
[One guided by the Dragon God]	Relationship with the Dragon race and those who follow the dragons strengthens

I was reminded that results will show themselves if I worked hard but I cast [Heal] just in case.

When I did so, a pale light suddenly dwelled in my hand and begin to shine. But it appeared considerably different from the [Heal] I recall.

Even though the consumption of magical power had decreased, its effect was comparable to a [Middle Heal].

“Sage ... even though it's only level I, it's not half-bad.”

A stranger would definitely avoid me if he saw the complacent smile on my face right now but Nadia and Lydia shared in my happiness.

“Luciel-sama, congratulations.”

“It's great. Really wonderful.”

The two of them smiled as they cried tears of joy.

“With this, you're thinking you no longer need to continue that training that abuses your body right?”

” ... Luciel-sama's thinking is a bit too honest.”

The real meaning behind their words was about the instinctual behavior of all living creatures that woke up within me after I lost my Healer job.

In nature, when males are weak, they would instinctively want to leave offspring so I've been constantly feeling anguished since we came to Nelldal.

There were times when I thought perhaps they could tell and if they were inviting me but I purged those thoughts with steadfast determination.

I would probably have been captivated by them if it's a time when there aren't any problems but I was currently in a crisis.

If I lost myself to lust at such a time, I feared that I would not be able to stop and I might just see the two of them as a sexual outlet.

That's why I overworked my body to prevent the build-up of sexual desire and wicked thoughts and somehow escaped the charm of the two of them by using Angel's Pillow.

“The two of you are attractive so it was a tough fight against worldly desires. Furthermore, thinking of Shisho and Lionel, I also wanted to regain my Holy Attribute Magic as soon as possible.”

The two of them smiled shyly when I told them that they were attractive and nodded repeatedly when I talked about Shisho and the others.

“You could put in great effort precisely because you were doing it for them right.”

“Luciel-sama ...”

Although Holy Attribute Magic supports my heart the most, they were strangely impressed by me ... and since they were feeling moved already, it looked like I didn't have to tell them everything.

I wanted to immediately use the magic communication bead to inform Pope-same of the return of my Holy Attribute Magic but a few days after arriving at Nelldal, Pope-sama gave me a strict order to not use the magic communication bead for communication in the Magic Guild for fear of them eavesdropping so I was hesitating as to whether to contact her.

Shisho's magic communication bead has a short range so I won't be able to reach him.

Then, I thought of Dolan and Paula and that they probably have joined up with Lionel and the others so I tried contacting them but there was apparently no reaction.

“ ... It's probably in their magic bag.”

I was worried about the world below nonetheless so I decided to ask the Wind Spirit about the situation below later.

“Luciel-sama, what would be our objective from now on?”

“Will we return to the surface immediately after releasing the dragons.”

“I can't say for certain without actually meeting the dragons. Why do you ask?”

“Even though we've finally come to the City in the Sky, we haven't left the Magic Guild even once? I've wanted to visit the townscape all this time.”

Lydia said shyly.

Thinking back, it's true that we have not stepped foot outside of the Magic Guild even once.

Without feeling like I'm in Nelldal floating in the sky, I trained and slept like a log every day.

"We certainly haven't left the Magic Guild since we came here. It would have been fine if you didn't hesitate to tell me ... I'll ask Orford-san about it when I meet him later today."

The two of them smiled delightedly when I said that.

The two of them probably endured in various ways but it didn't cross my mind at all.

It seemed like my vision was narrowed to a considerable extent.

I thought to myself to endeavor to be kind to others and to be strict with myself.

After we finished preparing, we went to the training grounds before my appointment with the Wind Spirit.

"Luciel-sama, since you've become a Sage, you definitely can use other magic too."

"Since you've acquired the divine protection of all six Spirits, they would definitely lend you their power."

I was thankful for their support but I probably won't be able to cast magic.

Even so, I tried to have some faith and wore the Dragon Necklace around my neck before channeling magical power into my Illusionary Cane and calling out.

"Flame Dragon ... activate?"

Nothing flew out at all and I totally didn't sense my magical power get drawn out.

There was an awkward moment of silence.

I felt tepid gazes from Nadia and Lydia.

I quietly transformed it to the Illusionary Sword and took up my usual posture for when I try to send a flying slash.

Channeling magical power into the Illusionary Sword, I hoped to myself that it would be sent out this time as I swung it with all my strength and cried out.

“Flame Dragon Sword!”

The next instant, like the time when I was fighting the Evil God and cast Sanctuary Circle and Sanctuary Barrier with No Chant multiple times, I felt my magical power get intensely drawn out of my body all at once.

But what surprised me was not the magical power consumption but the power of the Flame Dragon Sword.

Instead of a slash, the Illusionary Sword released a small scarlet snake that reached the wall of the training ground in an instant and its power shook the training ground when it hit the wall like it bit it.

『Dogooooooooon』

It felt like my heart was about to stop from the tremendous power and the sound of explosion.

I thought that the training ground wall would immediately recover since it was made to labyrinth specifications but there was a sunken hole of about 3 meters deep and 30 centimeters in diameter where the flame burned without disappearing.

” ... Flying slash? Or was it a flying dragon?”

When I confirmed my magical power that was clearly depleted, I saw that the one attack I just released consumed about one thousand magical power.

It'll completely be my last resort/trump card as it would be the end after I shoot five of them out.

While feeling frightened at the phenomenon that I caused, I wanted to ask for the thoughts of the two of them but when I turned back, they were staring stiffly at the wall that was still burning.

“The magical power consumption is nothing to sneeze at so I don’t think I’ll be able to use it many times but I’d love to hear if you have any thoughts about it?”

“Luciel-sama, what exactly? What kind of magic is that? I sensed dragon powers mixed within?”

“That was the first time I’ve seen a flying flame snake. Moreover, the power was amazing!!”

Nadia was flustered because I was able to cast magic even though I’ve not been able to until now while Lydia solely focused on praising its power.

On the whole, it seemed like the two of them rated the Flame Dragon Sword quite highly.

“Nadia, that was apparently something that has been used for the first time using the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons. So at the moment, I am probably the only one who can use it.”

” ... I see. Luciel-sama, I think that it a wonderful attack magic.”

Even while she praised me, I noticed a slight gloom in her smile.

That’s why I told Nadia the information I obtained from the Wind Spirit when I spoke to it last night.

“By possessing the divine protection of Dragons, physical ability increases but it apparently makes the use of magic itself difficult. It’s just a guess but maybe you can try various magic attributes and decide on one attribute to try chanting many times?”

“A single magic huh ... then I would like to focus on the Lightning attribute.”

Nadia smiled to not show me her disappointment but in the contrary, it was more painful to see.

Even though normally it should be possible to learn it after chanting it for thousands of times for roughly three months, Nadia had not learned it.

Was the reason because her job was Swordswoman and that her title is Dragon Priestess so the proficiency that she can obtain is low to begin with?

“Nadia, did you properly acquire the Magical power Manipulation and Magical Power Control skills?”

“No, it was written in the book that anybody can learn them if they work hard so I didn’t acquire them.”

It seems like the author of the church book I read and theirs was not the same.

There was no meaning in telling that to Nadia but when I tried to say something constructive, I stumbled upon an unexpected fact.

It seemed like she could only ambiguously perceive even her own magical power and that she does not clearly understand how to move magical power.

Furthermore, even though Lydia had actually been using Spirit Magic until today, the Spirits apparently perform the precise magical power control so she was at the same level with Nadia when we came to Nelldal.

“Nadia, if you have SP remaining and have nothing to acquire through SP, it would be better if you learn Magical Power Control.”

“Understood.”

Thus, Nadia acquired Magical Power Control.

Then, I taught her tips to Magical Power Control before we begin moving from the training ground to the fountain.

The flames from the Flame Dragon Sword had died out by the time we left the training ground.

However, the hole in the wall did not reform so perhaps the internal mechanism was destroyed? I prayed that I won’t have to provide compensation for it.

CHAPTER 184

GLIMPSE

After I've tried my new powers, I brought Nadia and Lydia along to the fountain located in the center of Nelldal but Orford-san was already there on a bench beside the fountain reading a book.

“Orford-san, sorry to have kept you waiting.”

When I apologized to him, Orford-san stopped reading his book but he suddenly chanted magic.

I was on guard for a moment but the magic he cast was not attack magic but a green barrier with the fountain as the center.

“We won’t have to worry about others peeping and eavesdropping with this. Luciel-dono, the explosion at the training ground just now was tremendous but ... wow, I’m surprised you became a Sage through your own efforts.”

Maybe Orford-san used Appraisal as he had a stunned expression.

When Pope-sama told me to watch out for eavesdroppers, she probably wasn’t referring to Orford-san who possess the Appraisal skill but as a warning to me to remain vigilant against the other countries.

I could clearly see that now. Also at the same time, I tried to confirm if the person in front of me was the Wind Spirit or Orford-san.

“Would I lose my divine protection if I shout that out here?”

“I thought I told you that is a secret!! Don’t you dare!”

He looked at me with a serious look and with dreadful threatening attitude so I stopped.

It looks like it was currently the Wind Spirit.

However, I didn't understand why the Wind Spirit would be so cautious towards the surroundings.

Since the Wind Spirit should own quite a wide territory.

"Why are you so wary? Moreover, Orford-san knows about this right?"

"Umu. But Orford is already an old man ... it won't be strange if he grows senile anytime ..."

Even though it's the Wind Spirit, it didn't sound like it was a trivial matter so I reluctantly pursued the topic further.

"But that doesn't answer my question?"

"This fellow still has not elected his essential successor. That's why I have no choice but to appear on the surface and let that Orford worry about who to select as his successor on the inside."

It was considerably more important than I had imagined.

"Since when has he been thinking about it?"

"It has already been this way for a couple of years. Seriously, I thought I signed a contract with a terrific guy but I've been regretting it lately."

The Wind Spirit made a pose to show it was fed up but it also looked like it was somehow enjoying it too.

Then, a thought suddenly passed through my mind.

" ... Have we not even conversed with Orford-san until now by any chance?"

"No, you all have. I can safely say that when you all first arrived at Nelldal, when the honey was involved and later when you all first began magic training, he was observing you all seriously."

The Wind Spirit said earnestly with a friendly smile.

If that's the case, then it really was Orford-san who created that stack of materials.

Even though he was doing it so half-heartedly at that start ... he gradually became more cooperative so something might have happened.

But I was bothered by one matter, wouldn't he have noticed the real reason as to why Nadia couldn't use magic?

"Is that so?"

"He told me that the figures of youngsters single-mindedly working hard, especially in the pursuit of magic, reminded himself of his youth."

Maybe although the people who come to Nelldal researched magic with him, there probably wasn't anybody who tried to master the essence of magic ... wait, maybe that was what he was grieving about before.

... Maybe the letter from Pope-sama also asked about the development of magic tools and such so he was displeased?

I became slightly uneasy.

"Well then, it won't help even if we talked about it here so let's first go to the center. Enter the fountain."

" ... It would dirty the water and it should be something that good kids shouldn't imitate?"

"This is just a magic tool made to look like a fountain. You won't get wet even if you entered it."

I believed its words and when I stepped into the fountain, I really didn't get wet at all.

Then, the Wind Spirit chanted something and the fountain sunk into the ground.

The surroundings were all walls so I couldn't peek to see what was inside.

"Is this a magic elevator?"

"That's right. But this one has a trick. Only me and Orford can activate this. That's right! Would you like to learn how to activate it?"

I felt a strange chill at that time for some reason so I refused.

“I’ll have to decline. We’ll probably only stay here for a few more days only anyway.”

“... That’s a shame.”

The magic elevator stopped the same time the Wind Spirit remarked that it was a shame and it looked like we had arrived at our destination.

A large space appeared in front of my eyes and I understood that this was the boss room in a labyrinth made evident by the existence of the sealed door in front of me.

“... Why was this place hidden from us when we came to Nelldal?”

“I wonder~? Probably because he recalled that Pope Fluna once turned him down here or that he was jealous of how you have become her favorite. Fofof.”

I see. It’s true that although Pope-sama looks like she’s about 20 years old, she’s a member of the long-lived race and has already lived for centuries.

She gives off a mysterious impression that can’t be felt from a regular elf so it’s understandable.

However, even though the jealousy of an elderly is hard to resolve, it seemed like we resolved it without knowing.

“It can’t be helped if that’s the case.”

I walked towards the sealed door as I gave a wry grin but the sealed door had already been opened.

“... The sealed door is open? This ...”

“Ever since I came to Nelldal, there has always been a gap about that size. Even if a person is capable of coming here, an ordinary person would not be permitted to enter so it’s probably not an issue.”

I don’t feel anything but are Nadia and Lydia alright?

I became worried and when I looked, Nadia seemed fine but Lydia didn’t look like she was feeling well as her complexion was pale.

“Is Orford-san’s body alright?”

“No, it’s under the pressure of a considerable burden. Nothing serious will happen if I leave his actual body but Orford has also not left the realms of a human.”

It sounded like it just bluntly certified that I am no longer human but Lydia’s complexion was bad so I swallowed his words and asked the Wind Spirit.

“... Then could you look after Lydia? Nadia and I would enter.”

“Luciel-sama, I can go too.”

Lydia wanted to follow but the Wind Spirit cut in between us and stopped her.

“Ojou-chan can study Wind Spirit Magic with me here.”

“But ...”

It seems like it had planned to instruct Lydia on magic since the beginning.

The Wind Spirit smiled.

Even so, Lydia still looked at me with imploring eyes but then Nadia began to persuade her.

“Lydia, leave Luciel-sama to me. I also have to carry out the duty I have as the Dragon Priestess and Lydia should also fulfill your duty as the possessor of the Spirit God’s divine protection.”

“Onee-sama ... okay. The two of you please be careful.”

She was quickly convinced to do what she must.

There was no tragic separation.

“Alright. So Wind Spirit, please take care of Lydia. I’ll meet the Twin Dragons with Nadia.”

“Umu. Leave it to me.”

Then, Nadia and I dove through the dragon sealed door.

“I’m nervous. There isn’t an oppressive sensation but I feel like I’m being watched.”

"Well, the Twin Dragons will probably come out soon."

There were stairs immediately after we stepped through the door and we proceeded by descending the stairs.

And I planned to chant Sanctuary Circle as usual the instant I saw the Twin Dragons once we reached the bottom of the stairs but I couldn't do so.

«Sage, come let us see you.»

«And Sage, we will show you your possibilities.»

« «We will not gift our divine protection to a cowardly person.» »

Those voices echoed in my head so I stopped my activation of Sanctuary Circle.

I don't particularly need the divine protection but neither do I want to die an early death.

"I was just spoken to by the dragons but did you hear it?"

"... What are you talking about?"

It looked like Nadia didn't hear the voices so I was skeptical about the purpose of her Dragon Priestess title.

"The dragons contacted me so there might be a battle. Get ready."

"Yes."

When we descended down the stairs completely, the Water Dragon and the Wind Dragon showed themselves.

Unlike the dragons that I've seen until now, not only did they retain their consciousness, it also didn't look like they were under the curse of the Evil God as they looked down upon us from the sky.

Eh? Maybe it will conclude without a battle this time ... I thought.

«Firstly, Sage and Dragon Priestess, congratulations on reaching this location.»

«I thank you for dispelling the curse of the Evil God on my brethren.»

“Everything took care of itself in its own course but I am glad that I was of use.”

The Twin Dragons were capable of speech and there was no oppressive feeling so I could converse with them in a relaxing atmosphere.

«However, we are the strongest species in history.»

«One can only prove oneself through battle.»

However, it seemed like Supreme Luck-sensei was stricter compared to Great Luck-sensei as the conversation was somehow developing towards a strange direction.

“... Do the two of you plan to battle amongst yourselves?”

«Gahaha. Tonight’s Sage is interesting.»

«The one fighting us is you.»

«Of course, I won’t fight seriously.»

«But, we will be using the strength of our brethren so we’ll be attacking with attacks other than those that will instant-kill you.»

«We’ll give you our divine protection if you can splendidly fight us.»

« «Make us acknowledge you using your own strength.» »

I screamed internally that this world doesn’t just have the Evil God and Death God as the Twin Dragons in front of my eyes laughed with shining eyes.

That scene somehow reminded me of the time when Shisho trained me.

Then I realized. In the end, the Twin Dragons are just battle maniacs.

The dragon race itself is most likely made up of battle maniacs and their power was most likely restrained by the Evil God's curse such that they didn't end up killing me.

That's why Supreme Luck-sensei probably made me battle the dragons as a trial as it would let me experience growth ... I looked for a means to escape as I had that thought.

I could understand but I cannot possibly be convinced by it.

But I don't believe the twin dragons would give me the chance to escape ... ? That's when I noticed that Nadia's condition was strange.

Looking at Nadia, her forehead was glistening with beads of sweat and it felt like her eyes had lost their shine.

“Please hold the battle, Nadia's condition seems weird.”

But I was the only person perturbed by it, the twin dragons didn't show any indication of worry.

《Don't worry. We won't harm the Priestess.》

《She must currently be speaking with Dragon God-sama through us.》

《Send the Priestess to the stairs and I'll be his opponent first.》

The Water Dragon said.

《I'll look after the Priestess so you can safely exert your full strength.》

The Wind Dragon said as it manipulated the wind that caused Nadia's body to float in the air and after she was carried to the bottom of the stairs we descended down earlier, she was visibly covered with a green membrane.

Then, the Water Dragon's voice echoed in my head.

《I will allow you to challenge me any number of times.》

《However, if you give up, I will not acknowledge you regardless of what Sage you become.》

«If you want tranquillity, seek might, knowledge and harmony.»

«If you do so, your dream will come true.»

« «Death through old age ... Gahahaha.»

Setting aside how they knew my dream, looking at the Twin Dragons that burst out laughing in the sky, I wondered why can't they just skip all this, give me their divine protection and quickly let me go home?

I sincerely hoped for that in my heart.

CHAPTER 185

IMAGINATION AND POSSIBILITY

The location that I thought the Twin Dragons were sealed at was about four times as wide as the training ground in the Adventurer's Guild.

But even so, it was probably because of the Water Dragon in front of me and the Wind Dragon holding itself back behind me that made me feel like the place was cramped.

It's like I'm between a rock and a hard place.

It allowed me to choose the timing to launch my attack but petty tricks would probably not work.

But suddenly starting with an ultimate move would also mean defeat.

Nonetheless, I should make full use of small tricks ... I stopped thinking negatively for a while and tried to negotiate.

"Water Dragon, my magical power would deplete after releasing five shots of Dragon Sword. So could you please wait until I recover after that?"

«Sure. Try to corner me with your wisdom.»

Does that mean it is fine to negotiate binding terms against it?

However, asking for any more concessions despite the battle not having started yet would likely incur its wrath so I stopped there.

"I won't be able to properly compete with you even if we fight so, Water Dragon, please make sure to hold back."

«Nuuuu»

"This time, as Faith Dragon Knight (Four Attribute Dragon Knight) Luciel, I shall challenge you, Water Dragon."

Looking at the Water Dragon groan like it was slightly annoyed, I instantly circulated magical power throughout my body as a countermeasure against physical and

magical damage, quickly activated Area Barrier, activated Physical Body Strengthening, and while announcing my challenge, I kicked the ground at once.

Since it has such a large frame, its movements should be slow.

Moreover, rather than take on the breath attack that can't be dodged, I thought that it would be better to close the distance so that it can't use its breath.

Then when I was in a position not more than ten meters away from the Water Dragon, I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and activated my newly attained power.

“Flame Dragon Sword, Thunder Dragon Sword, Earth Dragon Sword.”

If petty tricks or a strong technique are both half-measures, I decided to go with a frontal assault with three consecutive release of strong techniques.

However, performing those techniques without grasping their special characteristics by rehearsing resulted in negative results.

The Flame Dragon and Thunder Dragon flew towards the Water Dragon but the Earth Dragon did not activate.

But shortly within a blink of the eye, the Flame Dragon and Thunder Dragon snapped at the Water Dragon.

At that moment, a tremendous amount of steam rose up.

I stood disorientated from the skills that consumed more than half of my magical power but I immediately tried to follow up with another attack without dispelling my Physical Body Strengthening.

But I couldn't do so.

“Wha!? I’m frozen?”

My feet were frozen and I was in an immobile state before I knew it.

Then, when the steam dissipated, the Water Dragon with its body covered in ice appeared with no signs of anything having happened to it.

《Going all out is quite good but you should consider your opponent’s attribute more.》

“To even be able to control ice, please change your name to Water Ice Dragon.”

《Fool, why did you decide that I who governs water would not be able to refine ice. Start over ... Guo?!》

The Water Dragon was hit by an unexpected strike when it was about to attack and I had stiffened my guard at the center of my body. A dragon ... snake came out from the earth behind the Water Dragon and bit it.

However, since it was an attack beyond the Water Dragon’s expectations, the attack reached it.

Well, the person that was the most surprised was none other than myself but I felt that it was an opportunity for me so I tried to break out of the ice but I totally could not break it.

《What a tactic, to be able to manage to perform a time difference attack alone and also talk to me to catch me off guard. It looks like I won’t be bored.》

The next instant, water appeared where there was nothing there before and it gradually swelled until it stopped when it became larger than the Water Dragon.

《A lot of water is present in the air even if we can’t visibly see it. I can use it for both attack and defense.》

The huge water ball split into an unavoidable number of baseball-sized masses and flew towards me.

“It’s quite powerful but if it’s only this ...”

I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and intended to first crush the ice around my feet but the Water Dragon’s attack gradually intensified and moreover, the water turned into ice so I could do nothing but somehow try to defend using a large shield.

《Nuuuu, boring.》

After some time had passed, the Water Dragon grumbled and the ice around my feet melted away and the all the water completely returned to the Water Dragon.

《Sage, are you incapable of using attribute magic?》

“I can’t. I am only able to use Holy Attribute magic and can only circulate the other magic attributes but I can’t cast them.”

《Then, circulate fire magical power and try to concentrate it in your feet.》

The instant I wanted to attempt chanting Fire Attribute Magic as I was told, my feet were frozen.

“Cold!?”

《If you can circulate Fire Attribute magical power, trying using that to melt the ice. I’ll steadily freeze this place over until you are able to move.》

” ... Alright.”

Like before, I’m not capable of doing anything even if I object so I followed the Water Dragon’s instructions.

Closing my eyes, I imaged myself extracting only the fire attribute among the magical power within my body out and cladding myself in the magical power of Flame.

I could feel the gazes from the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon but the two of them were probably conversing.

It won't really matter if I don't live up to their expectations but I might even be forbidden from leaving this place for life if I do it badly so I focused all I had into the training.

I had no idea how much time passed but the feeling in my feet changed from cold to painful and then to numbness.

Still, I continued to clad myself in magical power but I could not melt the ice.

『Sage. You have both my brethren's power as well as the Spirit's power but you are bound too much by your common sense. If you don't try to be slightly more imaginative, you might have to spend the rest of your life in an ice coffin?』

I somehow felt like I want to sit down and have a meeting with Great Luck-sensei and Supreme Luck-sensei as to why my expectations only come true for cases like these.

” ... Please spare me from that. I don't have the preference of getting sealed in permafrost! Leaving that aside, imagination?”

『That's right. I'll only give you a single hint. I used water for my earlier attack and defense but I can also use all liquids for attack and defense.』

“Attack and defense ... but that is ...”

『It's utterly foolish to try to decide if anything is possible or not without first attempting to verify a new possibility. If you insist on fretting on the small matters, maybe it would be better to soak you in ice after all.』

“Wha!? Wait a minute.”

In an instant, my body was encased and captured in ice with the exception of my face.

『It's human nature after all to think of unnecessary things when not pushed into a corner. Now, break out from that with your own ability.』

The Water Dragon said that before it fell backward, rolled itself up and went to sleep.

The Wind Dragon was already similarly rolled up and sleeping.

It looked like I had completely been branded a disappointment and they had lost interest in me.

Well, leaving the assessment of the Twin Dragon aside,

Freezing me, or rather, burying my body in ice is still foul play.

But not being able to move or even escape, I really didn't expect the battle with the real boss to be like that.

I'll have to somehow look for the path to resolve this while keeping in mind the hint the Water Dragon spoke before I lose my capability to think.

The Water Dragon said that the fixed ideas I have are a hindrance.

Moreover, I apparently lack imagination ... I held the Illusionary Sword in my hand but because it was encased in ice, I could not move it.

Since I was covered in ice, my body temperature also rapidly decreased which caused my consciousness to slowly become hazy.

I thought of wearing the Flame Dragon as an armor but that was also unrealistic.

Since my body would probably be burnt by the flames if I did that.

What do I do? Those words spun around in my head.

Even though it's no good, should I wear the Flame Dragon after all? Can I even wear it? If I do it, it won't just end with burns ... normally.

I've already regained my powers so what am I if I can't even wear a Flame Dragon.

If that's the case, I'll show them my imaginativeness.

I somehow held onto my consciousness as I mustered my willpower to channel magical power all at once into my Illusionary Sword and cried out.

“Holy Dragon that protects, Flame Dragon that burns it all, release me from this abominable ice!”

The next instant, a pale dragon clung to my armor while a scarlet dragon began to rotate around the pale light.

Then, the ice melted in the blink of an eye.

Then, the Holy Dragon that protected me and the Flame Dragon that melted everything disappeared before I could say that they had completed their duty.

“How’s that!!”

I inadvertently screamed out but I suddenly fell into magical power depletion and showed the unsightly appearance of not being able to stand without drinking a magical power potion.

But, I could not overcome the nasty feeling of magical power depletion.

『Umu. The idea is good but it can’t be used in real combat. Take a break until your magical power recovers and have a magic discussion with me.』

『I’ll join in too if that’s the case.』

Perhaps the reason why the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon stayed in Nelldal was because the Magic Guild that is the headquarters of magic is located here?

I could not help but suspect that.

CHAPTER 186

A MAN'S ROMANCE?

I fell into the condition of magical power depletion from my battle with the Water Dragon but for some reason, it turned into a lecture from the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon about the mechanism of magical power.

«Sage, your mind is too rigid. If only you open your mind, you would be able to fully demonstrate the power you have finally acquired?»

«Only using our power to supplement your own magical power would cause you to fall into magical power depletion. Think for a moment for what reason did you acquire the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons.»

“Even if you tell me that, although I’ve finally regained Holy Attribute Magic after a long time, I only began to use Dragon Magic today so it’s difficult to fully grasp it.”

«Sage, what do you understand of our Dragon divine protection and the divine protection of Spirits?»

“Understanding of the divine protections? Dragon divine protections strengthen the body and raise attack and defense against dragons and their kin. For Spirit divine protections, it increases the magic resistance towards the respective attributes.”

«... That’s not wrong. However, such a shallow understanding of it ... it’s the same for my brethren too but Sage, your diligence in understanding yourself is insufficient.»

«I will not recognize those who understand any less than that. There is no loss in knowing more information.»

The content the Twin Dragons spoke of overlapped with something written in a business article I read in the past.

Hearing those words, I could only nod.

『Sage, my brethrens' powers are enormous. However, it is originally not something that people who have the divine protections can utilize.』

『Only Sages who materialize the power of the divine protection from Spirits can utilize our powers.』

“... Don't the power of Dragons and the power of Spirits resist each other?”

『It seems like you are misunderstanding something. It's true that after receiving both divine protections, the manifestation of regular magic becomes more difficult.』

『That's right. Indeed, from now, it would probably be difficult for you to express magic that humans normally use no matter how hard you work. In addition, since you did not possess the divine protection of Spirits since you were born, you would likely not be able to fully utilize Spirit Magic either.』

“It would help if you summarize it. It's a little jumbled up.”

『Ordinary humans can't see Spirits and naturally can't hear their voices too so they can't use their magic from the start.』

“Didn't you just nonchalantly say something serious?”

But they ignored my words and continued their speech.

『However, you learned the method to manifest the power of Dragons.』

『But, as you are now, you hardly have the power to break through difficulties.』

I had the undeniable feeling that I was being ignored for interrupting them.

Rather than a dialogue, it felt more like an atmosphere where I have to listen to everything before I ask questions.

『If you are capable of manifesting my brethren's power and clad yourself in it, you should be fully able to utilize the Spirit's power without expending that much magical power given that you have a clear mental image of what phenomenon you want the Spirits to cause while providing them with magical power.』

«However, if you activate it by channeling it into your sword, it would probably expend as much magical power as it had previously.»

Summarizing the words of the Twin Dragons, does it mean that although it is the same as when I release a flying slash, magical power consumption will be suppressed if I wear it instead?

«You look like you have questions but before that, I will explain to you the divine protections. Firstly, the Divine Protection from Spirits makes the handling of the respective attributes easier and allows conversion to your favorite magical power.»

«Even though many Spirits exist in the natural world, normally they won't take action even if you provide them with magical power. However, the Spirits have hierarchy too, in cases where you are given the divine protection of a Great Spirit that possesses enough power to give out divine protections, the Spirits will take the initiative to work for you.»

«If it's a Sage like you, even if you provide little magical power, as long as you have a definite mental image, the Spirits will be able to gather up magical power that exists in the natural world.»

Does that mean that as long as I have a clear mental image, even with spending little magical power, I can clad my body in the power of Dragons?

Then why is it that the magical power consumption for Dragon Sword doesn't change?

«The skill you used to release my brethrens' powers differs from the magical power of the natural world. For that reason, when you instead wear it around your body, the Spirits are able to compensate for the insufficient areas.»

«However, when the magical power is isolated from your body, they can't supply the natural world's magical power fast enough.»

«Sage, now that we have spoken until here, do you perhaps understand what you are lacking?»

“Just like how I circulate magical power within my body, I should control the magical power that I clad my body in?”

『Umu, that's fine. Since it would just be like bullying the weak if it continued like before.』

『It's a little soon but I'll be your opponent next.』

“... Before that, you all didn't explain to me the Divine Protection of Dragons?”

The Wind Dragon was confident but I didn't think that it would immediately lead to results just by receiving advice from them.

Hence, I decided to prolong the time until my magical power recovered.

『Our divine protection strengthen the physical body and the respective attributes.』

It seems like, in terms of usefulness of the divine protections, the Divine Protection of Sprits are useful while the ones from the Dragons are not so much so.

“... I see.”

『So, have you understood our divine protection and that of the Spirits as well as the power residing within yourself?』

“It's still a little vague but I've grasped the gist of it.”

『Umu, then let's fight ... or that's what I would like to say but it's not fun bullying you while you are in magical power depletion.』

It seems like the Wind Dragon somehow understood my intention.

“Then what would we do?”

『Show me how you control yourself in the air after I flip you into the air.』

“Eh? What ... Ooooo!? I'm floating?”

In response to the Wind Dragon's words, my body suddenly began floating in the air.

I gradually floated away from the surface and flew up to the Twin Dragons' eye level in the blink of an eye.

Even though I've just merely left the ground, for some reason I felt uneasy.

『With Wind Magic, humans can freely fly in the air. While accelerating in the air, master that sensation.』

Why did it turn out this way? Doesn't this look like I've completely turned into a toy for them?

While having such thoughts, the sensation of speed gradually increased and the G force that accompanies the upwards and downwards movements kicked in.

I somehow kept it together and maintained my posture but maybe it was not interesting to them as the difficulty suddenly increased.

『Sage, it looks like your body balance is quite good. Next, I'll make a wall of air so prepare for impact.』

I immediately cast Area Barrier when it said that and an instant later, an invisible mass hit the left side of my upper body and my body was sent flying.

Once I lost my balance, my body began rotating and I lost my central axis.

In the end, I was in a difficult situation as I tumbled countless times in the air and it had an effect on my semicircular canals as my eyes had difficulty focusing.

『Clad yourself in magical power and speak to the Spirits. If it's you, they would teach you a technique to overcome winds of this degree.』

Or rather, just stop this wind!! I'd love to scream that out but they likely didn't have any intention of stopping no matter how much I scream.

I immediately switched gears and shouted out what I associate with that can dispel my current predicament.

“Earth Dragon, and Spirits, create a foothold that can ride over the raging winds.”

『Nu?』

After I shouted that out, light shone at my feet and something smaller but wider than a surfboard, a wakeboard ... a gypsum board appeared.

“It doesn’t matter as long as I have a foothold ahhhhhhhhh.”

I was buffered by an excessive amount of wind and fell head first onto the ground ... or so I thought but I stopped in an instant about 30cm from the ground.

” ... I’m saved?”

The magic board that I hastily constructed had already shattered from just now.

I could casually think about how it was possible to create materials in the air where there was nothing around because I didn’t crash into the ground.

However, something else was in store for me.

《Idiot!! What were you thinking to further increase your wind resistance.》

Without even lowering me to the ground, the Wind Dragon once again raised me to its eye level and began to lecture me.

It was seriously angry that I created a board without thinking properly.

Naturally, I could not carelessly blurt out that I suddenly recalled an anime about flying in the air with a board so I said that I purely just thought of it.

” ... I thought I could ride the air waves. Moreover, I thought that I would be able to regain my posture if I made a foothold.”

” ... You could have either attacked me, the being who was manipulating the wind or cut a path through the wind using the power of the Thunder Dragon or there were various other methods but ... I would have been saddened if flying in the air became a traumatic experience for you.”

” ... Hn? What kind of training was this?”

“Isn’t it obviously training to fly in the sky? Isn’t it often said that it is a man’s romance to fly in the sky?”

” ... Then why did you make an invisible wall in the air?”

“Even winged dragons with low intelligence can create magical power barrier and avoid fluctuations in magical power if such a wall with magical power is created so it was special training.”

I wonder why ... talking with the Wind Dragon is seriously taxing.

It most likely planned it to let me enjoy flying in the sky.

Although I could feel its intention, to be honest, it was an unbelievably difficult setting so it shouldn't have been part of the content when I had just started floating in the air.

Even though I should have known that the common sense of Dragons and Spirits would not match with that of humans, this time, I neglected it so I should have been more careful.

Well, I found that I won't die and considering the attractions, it might actually be interesting.

“Incidentally, do you know when would Nadia wake up?”

『It's up to Dragon God-sama, but she should wake up within a couple of days.』

“Wait a minute, if it goes poorly then does it mean she will stay like that for a couple of days?”

『It's up to Dragon God-sama.』

Yup, for long-lived races, 1 day or 1 hour probably won't be that much different to them.

“She can't just stay in that position for so long. Please let me move her to a safe place.”

『I don't mind.』

『I'll leave it to you if you have any method in mind.』

Thus I opened the Hermit's Coffin from the Hermit Key series and housed Nadia in it.

If human common sense doesn't work then I probably don't need to use honorifics too.

“Well then, Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, sorry to keep you waiting. I’d like to ask one thing though, how far do I need to go to get your recognitions? I would like an indicator?”

『Sage, it doesn’t take that long. But I will say that it depends on yourself too.』

『Sage, first become capable of fully utilizing our brethrens’ power.』

『Then show us how you utilize those powers.』

『What we desire is your resolution.』

It was somewhat nostalgic like how I could do nothing but be defeated in the past.

I pumped myself as I repeated in my head the most important thing about this battle, which is I won’t die, so I decided to genuinely tackle the challenges from the Twin Dragons.

CHAPTER 187

ITEMS LEFT BEHIND BY THE TWIN DRAGONS

After I had my whole body frozen, experienced the condition where my feet doesn't physically touch the ground and endured the treatment I received from the Twin Dragons, a week had passed in the blink of an eye.

Within that time, I did not feel any growth but the treatment I had to go through had steadily become more severe.

Even so, because I did not give up and continued to work hard, I no longer needed to keep defending against getting frozen and even if I am sent flying into the air, the times I faced air walls decreased.

Incidentally, I was not allowed to use Area Barrier so I frequently used High Heal and Extra Heal instead but there was one thing that changed.

High Heal could revive cells that had been lost ... I once again appreciated Holy Attribute Magic as I endured the handling that is the Twin Dragon's trial.

『Sage, it looks like you have managed to somewhat move.』

『It's like you have grown to become someone completely different from the person who first came here.』

“It's because I hated getting frozen and shot into the air every time.”

Even though those words came out of my mouth, I had never been praised by the Twin Dragons so I was pleased.

『Luciel, water can turn to ice and can turn to steam. The possibilities are endless.』

『Luciel, wind may be formless but it is also solid. It can become your wings or it can also be used as a barrier.』

” ... What's this all of the sudden?”

I was shocked that they suddenly called my name and because of all that has happened, I was especially vigilant against them but an unexpected message echoed in my head.

『Piron』 【Title: Divine Protection of the Water Dragon acquired.】

『Piron』 【Title: Divine Protection of the Wind Dragon acquired.】

” ... What's the meaning of this?”

I was troubled as I received the divine protection even though I had not achieved anything.

I thought that I would receive the divine protection after I properly dealt a blow to them instead of the game we've been having until now but the result was slightly anticlimactic.

『Luciel, you have shown us your unwavering spirit and your courage to never back down.』

『Luciel, if it's you, one day will come when you will be able to adequately utilize our powers.』

The Twin Dragon stopped floating in the air and stood on the ground after descending.

Then, seeing my troubled look, they explained to me the reason why they gave their divine protections.

『The remaining time we have is extremely little.』

『If that's the case, it would probably be faster if we show you the power of a real dragon.』

“What are you talking about, I don't understand ... ”

The Twin Dragons were now talking as if they were about to disappear but there's no way I could understand it like that so I urged them to continue.

The Twin Dragons looked at each other and spoke frankly.

『We have also been placed under the curse of the Evil God.』

『Even now, we still do not know how it entered this strong barrier that defends Nelldal.』

『It can be said that luckily, we were both together when the Evil God appeared so we were able to turn the tables on it but that battle destroyed the magic circle that maintains Nelldal in the air.』

『We have been trying all along to restore it.』

What has the Wind Spirit been doing exactly? For it to suddenly invade ... seriously, what is it doing?

Feelings of anger welled up without any outlet of release.

“... Is there no possibility that it was done by humans?”

『Even though it releases maliciousness, it is still a God. If it was done by a human, it most likely manipulated the human to do it so it can't be helped.』

『Thankfully, we successfully restored the magic circle so Nelldal will not fall.』

“If that's the case, then when did you two get cursed?”

『It seems like the curse would activate if we restored the magic circle.』

『To the extent that even we would not notice, it was an ingenious trick.』

I noticed that the Twin Dragons were trying to calm me but I was angry as the Evil God was the only being that was interfering with me in this world.

Furthermore, if it could seal the Reincarnation Dragons that acts as the core of this world, I would like to ask their thoughts on the failure of the world administrator.

However, I really didn't expect that the Twin Dragons right in front of my eyes were cursed.

They have a firm grasp on their consciousness, can move well and we could mutually understand each other during conversations with the exception of common sense but above all else, I didn't see any behavior from them that indicated that they were suffering at all.

Perhaps their symptoms are weak and it can be treated? I thought and suggested to the two of them to allow me to dispel it.

“Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, at my current ability, I should be able to dispel the Evil God’s curse so would you let me try?”

『Our curse has already reached the stage where it can’t be dispelled.』

『We’ve been using a method to mutually erase the pain from the curse and frankly, we can no longer move our bodies well.』

“!? Is that why we have not battled other than the very first battle?”

However, the Twin Dragons didn’t answer that and looked like they decided to show it through actions and once again floated up to the sky.

『It’s also about time the Priestess returned.』

『So, we will now give you the final trial.』

『『Purify us.』』

The Twin Dragons sought for purification and made it my trial.

『Make use of everything you learned here and make us yield to you.』

『Release us Twin Dragons from the Evil God’s curse and take over our power.』

It seems like they offered their own body for the trial.

I was moved but requesting for battle as a trial is seriously painful.

But as Sir Rainstar had said, If the fundamental four attribute Dragons are released and the Hero doesn't lose to the Demon Lord, doing this would protect the world.

The most important thing to think about before I retire is to not have to fight against the Demon race, Demon Lord and Evil God.

After my internal conflict, I replied.

"... Understood. But because my magic power has changed since I became a Sage, not a single bone may remain after I purify you two okay?"

« «Gahahah» »

«What grand remarks even before you fight us.»

«If there's anything remaining, we'll entrust it to you.»

«If it's not sufficient, carve all of our power into your body.»

«And show us you can overcome the final trial.»

« «Here we come.» »

It would have been better if the Twin Dragons' trial was to save the two of them.

However, the Twin Dragons won't give me time to spare to think any more about it.

I suddenly felt fluctuations in magical power, a sudden breath attack from my blind spot behind me and from the sky.

"Holy Dragon, protect this body. Thunder Dragon, leave everything behind."

I unconsciously called out to the Holy Dragon and Thunder Dragon in reflex even quicker than my mind could react to it.

After the Holy Dragon dwelled in my body and the Thunder Dragon wound around my feet, the next instant, my vision blurred as the scenery passed by at high speeds.

Convinced that I had avoided the attacks, I activated Sanctuary Circle via No Chant.

Because I didn't expect to have earned the time to weave a magic circle to do it via Magic Circle Chant.

I generated the Sanctuary Circle with No Chant and it circled around the bodies of the Twin Dragons but I felt like I caught a glimpse of the Holy Dragon.

The match was over in an instant.

When I looked towards the place I was originally standing on, the ground looked like it was scooped up by something leaving a crater there and furthermore, there were many scars on the ground that I imagined were left by many ice spears piercing that spot.

If I was late for even an instant in avoiding, it wouldn't have been strange if I died normally from being exposed to that rain of attacks.

I shuddered at the thought of what would have happened if I didn't notice the magical power of my surroundings.

«Great job using the Thunder Dragon's power to avoid my attack from your blind spot.»

«This is just like the light of affection from the Holy Dragon.»

Bathed in the pale light of Sanctuary Circle, the Twin Dragons smiled looking like they were content.

“Water Dragon, Wind Dragon ... my life would have scattered in an instant if you two were serious.”

«That's true too.»

«Even so, you have splendidly overcome our final trial.»

«You can feel proud of it.»

The Twin Dragons' words were unusually warm.

« «A day would probably come where we meet again.» »

«Until that time comes, please fully utilize our power.»

『I pray that you use our power correctly.』』

After saying that, a light blue light and a green light was absorbed into my Illusionary Sword and necklace.

『Sage Luciel, I ask that you stop the invasion of the Demon race and we leave this world in your hands until the Hero appears.』』

『Sage Luciel, protect the world before it is governed by miasma.』』

The topic suddenly became too big so I couldn't fully acknowledge their request but the Twin Dragons most likely knew that I can't protect everything.

“... I can only do as much as I can physically achieve.”

That's why as usual, I replied with emphasis that I would protect those within my range.

『Sage Luciel, if the world is really faced with a crisis, remove the seal on Rafiruna.』』

『It should respond to you now that you have become a Sage.』』

“Rafiruna? Who is that?”

『『Work hard for your aim of dying of old age. Gahahah.』』』

Without answering my question, the Twin Dragons' body became corporeal and disappeared.

“Why do the Dragon race always say what they want to say and not reply to the important things that I want to confirm before disappearing!!”

I could no longer hold it in without screaming.

The Twin Dragons left behind a bow and a vase after they disappeared but I only noticed them after some time had passed.

Thus, having released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon from their seals, I left the sealed door without waiting for Nadia's return.

CHAPTER 188

ONE-WAY PASSAGE

After I safely released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, I noticed the bow and vase the Twin Dragons left behind after they disappeared and I returned via the way I came after I collected them.

While walking, the 'Rafiruna' the Twin Dragon told me about right before they disappeared left a hazy feeling in my heart as I tried to think of its identity such that it halved the joy I felt from releasing the Twin Dragons.

And then I convinced myself that I would refresh myself by throwing that hazy feeling onto the Wind Spirit and I felt my footsteps become slightly lighter.

However, after I climbed the stairs and exited the sealed door, I was hit by an unexpected situation.

"Why isn't the magic elevator here?"

There was also no sign of the Wind Spirit and Lydia but thinking about it calmly, my training with the Twin Dragons lasted for a couple of days and the two of them couldn't have remained down here for that long considering they didn't bring any food.

I returned to where we came down at and carefully examined the location where the magic elevator was but there was no mechanism to bring the magic elevator down and it seemed like there was no way to go up from below.

"... What a defective product. Or is it a system to not let the person escape to the outside if anybody breaks in here."

As I looked up at the height of the magic elevator that an ordinary human would not be able to reach, I was at a loss as to whether to use the power of the Wind Dragon.

“If I fell just before I reached it, it might even be instant death. Even if I could reach it, I can only hang onto the bottom of the magic elevator and I don’t have any means to operate it ...”

If it was going to be like this, I regretted passing the magic communication bead to Lydia or I should have exchanged for a magic communication bead from Orford-san.

Furthermore, I thought about the Telepathic Communication skill but that skill has a restriction of a couple tens of meters range when it has a low skill level so there won’t be any meaning even if I acquired that skill with SP.

“What should I do?”

My mind was blank so I began to organize information from scratch.

For all the labyrinths I’ve been to until now, including the cave where the Earth Dragon was at, a returning magic circle would appear.

However this time, maybe because this place was converted to no longer be a labyrinth, the magic circle did not appear.

If the return magic circle was purposely erased, then the chances of me escaping this place is ... !!

“Now that I think about it, there wasn’t the Evil God’s magic stone there and if the Twin Dragons fought with the Evil God at that location, won’t the magic stone and magic circle that they use a confidential technique to make Nelldal float be there too?”

When I thought out loud, more and more images came into mind.

“There must be an emergency escape exit when designing a place like this.”

If it was about time Nadia returns, perhaps I’m supposed to wait here and I prayed that I won’t cross without meeting Lydia and the Wind Spirit when they come to fetch us ...

The situation won't change no matter how much I begged for something that is not there so I decided to once again enter the sealed door.

I noticed a faint light leak out from behind the sealed door and headed towards that direction first.

Following that, unlike the large sealed door, I came across a small door of about one meter tall that was emitting light.

When I approached the door, I heard human-like voices but it was extremely soft so I couldn't catch anything.

“Is anyone there? I’m opening the door okay? Uo!?”

I called out just in case before I opened the small door and was faced with an avalanche of gold coins coming from the inside.

However, it wasn't an avalanche of only gold coins.

Equipment, magic tools, furniture and other items were spilling out as if they were being pushed out of the door.

” ... Why was such a large amount of items placed in there?”

There might be a possibility that a life was at stake so I quickly stored all of it in my magic bag.

As I was collecting the items, the inside cleared up such that I could peek in and I saw the figures of Lydia and the Wind Spirit.

“Are you alright?”

But their replies were poor and there's a possibility that they were squashed in that condition for a long time.

I immediately cast Extra Heal and when their bodies emitted light and they also seemed like they were breathing, I could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

“Maybe they aren’t waking up because they were unconscious. … Nevertheless, what happened here?”

When I looked around the room, I saw several floating bookshelves like they were from a fairy tale magic archive.

“Wait, is this perhaps the real magic archive?”

“That’s right.”

I thought that I would look around until they regained consciousness but for some reason, there was a reply to my mumblings.

When I turned back, I saw that Orford-san had gotten up.

“You’re alright.”

“Orford’s physical body was on the verge of death but it somehow survived with your magic and it looks like your magic even treated the stomach disease he’s been afflicted with.”

“Healing magic can’t cure diseases. Leaving that aside, is this the real magic archive?”

“Umu. Those who are allowed to enter here are only those who possess the Spirit’s divine protection or those who I originally acknowledge having no distortions in their hearts … I certainly didn’t expect the items that the Wind Dragon was hoarding to appear and fall on us.”

“That’s because I released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon from the Evil God’s curse.”

“What!? Evil God … I can’t believe it.”

The Wind Spirit reacted like it was really surprised but even so I still had some strong suspicions towards this spirit.

I had trouble comprehending how the Wind Spirit who supports Nelldal with the Twin Dragons not notice the abnormalities in the Twin Dragons.

If it was true that it didn’t meet them for decades, I would then certainly like to ask why was there a gap between them.

” ... At this stage, it doesn't matter if you really didn't know or you're playing a fool. But why was it that a Wind Spirit like you didn't notice the Evil God's incursion!”

I knew that there was no meaning in asking such a question but I had to ask no matter what.

” ... It's because the Wind Dragon and Water Dragons are way too amiable despite being Dragons. Including Rain, they have drunk wine with four others since Nelldal was made.”

“Four? And they even drank wine with them?”

“That's right. Dragons and Spirits can use magical power to turn humanoid. Well, it uses an enormous amount of magical power so we don't usually do it but because at that time, Rain bore the magical power consumption by transferring it to them so there was a time limit but they became humans.”

... In the case of Spirits, I thought it was by manifesting them so it might be possible but if it's true that he can even supply dragons to do so, he was bearing the cost of the transformation of one Spirit and two Dragons.

It was after he unknowingly defeated the Demon Lord so it wasn't impossible to imagine but if that's the case then won't Sir Rainstar even be able to summon heroic spirits?

If he did that, I believe I would have been able to live a carefree life.

I considered asking Sir Rainstar that if I have the opportunity to once again encounter him at Rockford a couple of years later.

Leaving that aside, should I return to the main topic?

” ... I'm thinking that something actually happened but were they keeping you at a distance?”

” ... Once, when the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon had a quarrel and they were about to make Nelldal fall from the sky, I had many disputes with them. After that incident, they never showed their faces to me or met me.”

Looking at the Wind Spirit with an elderly appearance that looked like he was about to cry, I could no longer blame him any further.

The atmosphere won't return to normal and I was troubled as I averted my eyes when I noticed that there were no traces left of the door I supposedly came in through.

"... The small door has disappeared?"

"It's a one-way door where one can only enter here from there but without my permission, a person would not be able to see it."

I thought that it was an amazing trick but he said it a little proudly so I changed the topic.

"... Before the Wind Dragon and Water Dragon disappeared, they said that a real crisis will befall the world and told me to remove the seal on Rafiruna but who is Rafiruna? Human, Dragon or Spirit? Or is it something like a Holy Sword?"

"Fumu. It would be better if you ask that Pope Fluna about it. As long as I don't know Rafiruna-sama's true intention, I cannot say any more."

It seemed like she's either a Human, a Dragon or a Spirit.

It looked like it would be meaningless to ask any further so I housed Lydia who still had not woken up in the Hermit's Coffin and decided to return to my room for now.

CHAPTER 189

RUMOR

When I left the room after talking with the Wind Spirit about the Twin Dragons, I arrived at the archive that was called the Magic Archive.

I was feeling surprised that the real Magic Archive was actually the room of forbidden texts when the Wind Spirit called out to me as I was going to return to my own room.

“Luciel, if it’s the current you, I can allow you entry to this place if you want?”

“There’s no need for that at the moment. I did not visit Nelldal to seek power.”

“I see. Then will you be returning to the surface?”

“There’s something I am troubled about so I will return after resolving that.”

“I’ll help if it’s something I can help with?”

” ... Then, just one thing. A magic stone-like nucleus and a return magic circle will definitely appear in all the labyrinths I’ve been to release the Dragons from their seals but even though Nelldal resembles a labyrinth, this time those items did not appear.”

“Umu, what about that are you bothered with?”

“The return magic circle won’t pose any problems but because touching the nucleus that resembles an enormous magic stone will cause the Evil God to appear, I advise you to never touch it if you ever go to a place where that nucleus is likely to be at.”

” ... Even if I find it, I will make sure nobody will approach it.”

“Thank you.”

The Wind Spirit looked like it began to think about something so I headed to my own room.

When I exited from the Magic Archive, the corridor was dyed in an orange color.

“Dusk ... now that I think about it, I’m feeling hungry.”

My feet carried me towards the canteen instead of my own room.

“Maybe I’ll make something simple … rather than that, now that I can once again use Purification, I guess it is fine no matter how messily I dismantle the stuff.”

It was my first time cooking after I recovered my Holy Attribute Magic so I was troubled with what to make as I arrived at the canteen and noticed that there were people I did not expect waiting there.

It was the Earl’s daughter Elinas Meinrich from the Principality of Blange who recently borrowed money from me as well as her followers.

“Luciel-sama, where have you been these few days? There’s been an emergency so I have been searching for you the whole time.”

It felt like she was panicking but it was the same feeling every time I met her so I first asked her about the issue.

“Sorry, I had to seclude myself a bit for a task … what’s the emergency?”

The three of them looked like it was something that was difficult to talk about when I asked so I thought that they came to borrow money once again but just the other day they were overjoyed about how their research was going well, perhaps it was premature?

However, my thought process stopped for a brief second after hearing the words that came from the Earl daughter’s mouth.

“Erm … A rumor has been going around in my country that Luciel-sama has been punished by the Gods, resulting in the loss of his Healer job and he can no longer use Holy Attribute Magic so I was told to look for accurate information.”

Leaving aside the point as to whether an S-rank Healer was punished by the Gods, the fact that the knowledge of how I lost my job and the usage of Holy Attribute Magic was spread to the other countries was the more serious problem.

Even though three months has passed since I came here, normally it would be impossible for other countries to know that.

One of the reasons why my thinking stopped was because the number of people who knew about it was limited.

Who was it exactly? I was getting lost in a vortex of thought but I realized that the Earl's daughter was looking at me and in the first place, she was ordered by her country to investigate me but why did she directly ask me? I wanted to know.

"... Just now you mentioned that you were told to investigate right? If it was a command from your country, why did you directly come to inform me?"

When I asked that, she smiled and passed me a leather bag as she replied.

"I don't wish to return evil for good. Thanks to Luciel-sama, I've proven the result of my research and I can continue to stay in Nelldal this year too. Ah, this is the gold you lent me. Truly, thank you very much."

... It looks like she wasn't just a brazen and deplorable person.

I guess she really was quite desperate that time.

I totally did not see her as a person who would value righteousness but I apologized in my heart for that judgment.

"... It was because Nadia and Lydia asked me so please thank them when you meet them. More importantly, what was the source of that information."

"Does that mean you really lost your Healer job and can't use Holy Attribute Magic anymore?"

Without answering my question about the source of the information, she looked at me with extremely anxious eyes as she asked if I lost my Healer job and whether I could or could not use Holy Attribute Magic.

I felt that she was genuinely worried about me.

"It's true that I'm no longer a Healer."

"... I told my country that that wasn't the case but what are your prospects of using Holy Attribute Magic then?"

She gave a look of despair when she heard my reply and immediately asked if there is hope for me to use Holy Attribute Magic.

“I can use it. 「Middle Heal」.”

I cast Middle Heal on the Earl Daughter with a smile.

She was worried as her hands and skin were dry due to continued research and she appealed to me to use Holy Attribute Magic so I treated her.

“Ah, how pleasant ... as expected, the rumor that you can’t use Holy Attribute Magic was a hoax after all.”

Unlike before, the Earl’s daughter and her two followers looked like they were somewhat relieved.

Who exactly are these people? While thinking about that, I asked if there were any other news.

” ... Were there any other interesting reports?”

“There were reports of Demons appearing in the Principality of Blange. Because of that, I heard that there was a request to dispatch the Paladin Corps.”

If she’s referring to Paladin Corps that can be sent for an expedition, does it mean it’s Lumina-san and the others? They’ve probably been dispatched before.

However, the problem is would Lumina-san and the others win if they fought with the Demons?

“Was that a recent report too?”

“Yeah. That was received three days ago. I asked the other researchers if Demons only appeared in my country but it seems like there have been reports of Demons appearing in various countries.”

I felt uncomfortable knowing that the Paladins were on the move but the Nobles probably don’t want to die so they most likely have already hired mercenaries and private troops and the Principality of Blange also have their own army so they would probably not have a joint operation with the Paladins so soon.

Nevertheless, Demons huh ...

“So what about the damages?”

“None, it seems like there were only sightings. But such reports have been spreading everywhere so the situation on the surface is getting suspicious.”

“I see ...”

I took a deep breath and calmed my mind before organizing the information.

At times like these, if I don't make a priority list and take action, I would fall behind on all fronts.

Firstly, those at the location who knew about the loss of my Healer job and my inability to use Holy Attribute Magic were Shisho, Lionel, Cathy, Kefin, Nadia, and Lydia.

The others would be Pope-sama ... and Catherine-san.

I don't want to suspect them but it's certain that somebody leaked the information.

If this turns into a negative campaign, it would once again cause the Church to fall into ruin.

If that is the opponent's aim, for example, if I am part of the Demon race ... if I am in the position to command the Demon race, I would probably gather information around the vicinity of the areas where the Demon race have not achieved results.

In that case, they would naturally obtain and search for information about me who can become their natural enemy.

Assuming if there was information of a possibility that I can't use Holy Attribute Magic within the reports, maybe they would try to slip into the Saint Schull Church to verify the information?

Or they might place spies to bring back information ... with transformation abilities like Orford-san, anything might be possible.

As the Demon race is at war with the Church, they might attempt to measure the Church's war potential.

Well, that's assuming that the enemy really is the Empire ... this time, I felt uneasy about something but I couldn't pinpoint what it was.

If this was a strategy to decrease the number of Paladins even a little, then the true target would be the Saint Schull Allied Nations but as long as we can't grasp the real identity of the enemy, there is still a need for information from the surface.

Well, if they were attacked by the Demon race, they would naturally contact me ... ah, nobody knows that I've changed from a Healer to a Sage and can once again use Holy Attribute Magic huh.

If I'm someone they deem will get in the way even if I come to their aid, then won't the possibility of them contacting me be infinitely small?

“Excuse me?”

I was lost in thought and realized that I once again forgot about the Earl's daughter.

“Erm Luciel-sama, would you be heading towards the surface?”

” ... I might have to. Plunging into a fight, getting embroiled in a conspiracy or having people aiming for my life, I absolutely hate it but ... even so, I still have things that I wish to protect.”

” ... If that's the case, please hold onto this.”

She offered me a decorated dagger.

“This is?”

“In the Principality, bloodlines take precedence over all else. This is my protection sword, those of pedigree below that of the Earl rank do not hold the qualifications to order a person holding this sword.”

” ... Isn't it an extremely important item then?”

“Yes. That's why, please come return it to me one day. If you hold onto that, I believe I won't leave Nadia and Lydia with unpleasant memories of me.”

” ... I don't know if I will go to Blange but I will gratefully accept this.”

“I look forward to meeting again.”

“Yes.”

The three of them left the canteen right after they finished their business.

“I didn’t expect a time to come when I would feel it was a great choice to help them at that time ... well then, maybe I’ll think about what to do from now while cooking.”

I decided to first fill my stomach as I prayed that if possible, I would like to avoid combat on the surface.

CHAPTER 190

HOLY ATTRIBUTE MAGIC SAVES THE HEART

Making stew is the best when there's a need to think about things.

I recalled someone telling me that in the past so I placed monster meat that I had thoroughly pre-treated into a stockpot and stewed it together with vegetables.

I was making the so-called bouillon.

It was something that would not fail even if I don't monitor it so it was perfect for thinking.

Well obviously, that won't fill my empty stomach so I took out ready-made food from my magic bag and ate though ...

I patiently extracted the lye, intently let it simmer without letting it boil and waited for the flavor to condense until the bouillon in the stockpot was complete.

Memories of the Adventurer's Guild guildmaster at the Holy Capital, Granz getting angry at me when he taught me for not being able to differentiate lye and flavor components well resurfaced.

"To ask an amateur to ascertain lye and flavor components, thinking back it certainly feels like it was quite spartan."

I chuckled on my own as I thought about what to do next.

The information Elinas-san told me is, as expected, not at the level that can be ignored.

If the rumor has been going around other countries, then the entirety of the Saint Schull Allied Nations must know of it too.

If that's the case, isn't there a risk of me getting chased by an inquisition?

If by chance that happens, won't the corrupt healers I crushed retaliate by further abolishing the guidelines I was involved in?

To begin with, if they pursue the reason why I lost my Holy Attribute Magic, won't the lives of Shisho and Lionel who I saved after much effort be in danger?

... I'll be at a loss if this was dealt with poorly.

Wait a minute, Pope-sama told me to not contact her because there are eavesdroppers right?

Then can't I just use that against them?

I immediately took out a magic communication bead from my magic bag and contacted Pope-sama.

When I did that, Pope-sama instantly replied.

«Luciel, what happened? I've told you that there's a danger that this would be intercepted when you are at Nelldal.»

It felt rare for Pope-sama to speak in a slightly angry tone but I replied to lead the conversation.

“Pope-sama, that's not important right now. It seems like there's a rumor going around about me with jumbled up true and strange facts. Moreover, it's happening in other countries.”

«... What do you mean?»

“I happened upon it by chance when I was speaking with the researchers here about a rumor that I lost my Healer job and that it was because of God's punishment. Not only that, there's also a rumor that I can't even use Holy Attribute Magic and I thought that maybe that rumor is widespread even in the Holy Capital so I quickly contacted you.”

«... If it's even in the other countries ...»

I realized that the rumor was already going around in the Holy Capital from Pope-sama's mutterings.

“Pope-sama, regarding my job, I think it might be better if we disclose that I had promoted from Healer to Sage. And that the reason why I came to Nelldal was to acquire other magic attributes apart from Holy Attribute, if we don’t dispel the rumors as mere rumors, disturbing elements might make their move.”

『… Do you have results?』

“Yes. Well, it should dismiss the rumors. Leaving that aside, it seems like there are movements from the Demon race but no matter how kind Pope-sama is, I doubted my ears when I heard that Pope-sama did not contact me when the church was in danger.”

I spoke in as clear a voice as possible for it to reach the other side.

『… Luciel, then will you be returning immediately?』

Unlike the previous voice, I could feel overflowing happiness from Pope-sama’s voice.

“Understood. I will report this incident to the Magic Guild guildmaster Orford-san and return promptly.”

『Take care.』

“Yes!”

I cut the communication there.

Just when I cut the communication, Nadia and Lydia came out from the Hermit’s Coffin.

“It looks like you two have awakened.”

“Luciel-sama, you’re alright?”

“I smell something nice.”

Nadia’s spirit was stretched thin from meeting the Twin Dragons while Lydia was crushed by various items after I defeated the Twin Dragons but it seems like they were both alright.

“I’d love to listen to your questions but before that, I wish to inform you two of my decision.”

The two of them nodded and I talked about the exchange I had just now.

“And so, we will have to postpone the leisurely stroll through the streets of Nelldal to the next opportunity but I will definitely create an opportunity to bring you two here once again so please bear with it.”

“There’s no helping it if that’s the circumstance.”

“Well if Luciel-sama will bring us back here, I’ll bear with it this time. More importantly, Luciel-sama … I’m hungry.”

I felt myself naturally smile when Lydia said that with an embarrassed expression as I prepared a meal for all of us.

I stored the pot I was in the process of cooking with into my magic bag and replaced it with ready-made dishes.

Then, I listened to the two of them.

True to her Dragon God Priestess title, Nadia met with the Dragon God and can apparently make dragons her kin and Dragon Magician was added to her job.

And as if to not put the Spirit King’s Blessing to shame, Lydia learned to summon Greater Spirits.

“However, I will have to fight the dragons and make them yield.”

“Both my magical power and skill level are insufficient to use Greater Spirit Summoning.”

“ … Nobody would have to go through hardship if you can use new powers so easily. Well, we all obtained new powers so let’s work hard to make them our own.”

“”Yes!””

After we finished our meals, we headed to the guildmaster’s room.

As Lydia and I have received the Spirit’s Blessings, we could go anywhere without hindrance like we were holding onto the Magic Guild free pass.

Nadia tried to climb the stairs behind the reception but she was blocked by an invisible wall. However, by connecting hands with Lydia, she could climb the stairs.

We arrived in front of the guildmaster's room and a voice called out when I knocked on the door.

“Who is it?”

“It's Luciel, is it alright if I have a bit of your time?”

“... Please enter.”

“Please excuse me.”

I opened the door because I received permission to enter but it seems like there was already a guest present.

“What's wrong?”

I was confused as to whether it was the Wind Spirit or Orford-san present but more importantly, I hesitated from speaking about the main topic when the previous guest was not someone I knew.

“You already had a guest?”

“Umu. But if you came all the way here, it means that you have an urgent request right?”

Nevertheless, I would prefer to speak to him without anybody else present so I intended to come back another time but Orford-san and the man facing him stood up from their chairs and turned to me before speaking.

“It seems like it's because I am here, S-rank Healer Luciel-sama ... no, you're no longer a Healer right? Then now it is just Luciel-dono.”

The owner of the voice seemed to be a man but because his face was hidden by a mask, I could not see his appearance.

What caught my attention was the man's tone, his attitude was as if he was acquainted with me and furthermore, it felt like he was directing hatred at me.

I thought I did not do much to gain grudges but maybe it's the Empire? I corrected my posture and tried to identify where this person was from.

"I acknowledge that my job is no longer Healer but the S-rank Healer was a title that was placed upon me by the Healer's Guild in the first place. More importantly, I don't believe I have any acquaintances who wears a mask to cover their true face but who are you?"

"I am a new researcher from the Rubruk Kingdom but I wonder what's my name?"

It looked like he was acting slightly belligerent but Orford-san played the role of calming the situation.

It seems like it's not the Wind Spirit.

" ... It's truly cruel running into an old acquaintance. Even though you have not done anything against me, I still feel hatred towards you ... I am the pathetic slave that failed to get you to buy me at Ienith."

Said the masked man, acknowledging his own error.

"Slave at Ienith? ... Ah, perhaps the one that time ..."

"So you remember me even though we've only met once. Then once again, I am the newly appointed Baron of the Rubruk Kingdom, Maxim von Wisdom."

" ... And the reason for your hatred towards me?"

"The thought that perhaps you, once the best Healer in the world, could have treated this."

The man ... Maxim took off his mask to reveal an inflamed face as if burnt by something sharp.

However, Maxim's injuries did not end there, he took off the robe he was wearing and miasma began to leak out.

" ... That is?"

“It’s something like a Magical Engraving for a curse. In the Empire, they tamper with the body in human experiments and plant magic stones within the body. Well, I lost consciousness from the intense pain but they judged that I had died so I was in a mountain of corpses when I woke up.”

“... Nobody in the Rubruk Kingdom was capable of treating that?”

“Yes. It’s great that they somehow pried the magic stone out but because my body leaks miasma, I’ve become an existence that resembles the demon race. There are no Healers in existence who are able to heal this. But, I clung to the thought that you, once the bearer of the greatest Holy Attribute Magic among humans ...”

In addition to understanding that his resentment towards me is completely unjustified, he probably couldn’t prevent himself from lashing out at me as the sole person who had the possibility of treating him.

His hatred towards the Empire was most likely too strong, causing his negative feelings to break through the limit and he probably became someone who hates the world.

And that anger that has no outlet likely led to his previous attitude.

Well, because I slightly understand that feeling, I decided to help him just this time.

I was feeling somewhat uncomfortable in my heart for not saving him that time either.

I believed that meeting him once again there was my fate guided by Supreme Luck-sensei ...

“Fumu. It seems like Wisdom-dono has a misunderstanding, I can still utilize Holy Attribute Magic you know?”

“Ha?”

Just seconds ago his expression was mixed with sadness and insanity but that one statement caused him to freeze.

“Like I said, instead of a Healer, I’ve become a Sage so Holy Attribute Magic is no issue ... but strictly speaking, it has been powered up.”

“The, then the possibility of treating this body?”

He was flustered in a way unimaginable from the dark and melancholic aura he wrapped around himself.

“Well, leaving aside whether I can treat you or not, if you are an Undead then you will face instant death but if you are alive, I will definitely save you.”

After I said that, he nodded firmly.

“I will pay anything as compensation. My hatred towards the Empire will not disappear for the rest of my life but I will even endure from taking my revenge. Please, please heal me.”

I wonder what happened, for him to even willingly stop himself from taking revenge even though he was so persistent on it? However, I wanted to have him make a pledge so it was perfect. Nevertheless, to think that he would suddenly use honorific language

...

“Then, please make a pledge. As compensation for this treatment, to disclose all information that you know of and to never act hostile towards me for your entire lifetime.”

” ... Does that even include state secrets?”

“I don’t care if it doesn’t concern the Saint Schull Allied Nations or myself but if you know of any dark secrets of the Empire then I intend to hear it all.”

“If that’s the case then I’ll make the pledge. I, Maxim von Wisdom, pledge to disclose information and never act hostile against Luciel-sama as compensation for treatment.”

When he said that, light descended onto Maxim.

“Well then, it might be slightly painful but please maintain your consciousness.”

I cast Dispel, Recover, Sanctuary Circle, Extra Heal and finally Purification in sequence.

In the beginning, Maxim looked like he was enduring the pain but it seemed like he no longer felt pain by the time I cast Sanctuary Circle.

However, the problem began there.

The moment I cast Extra Heal just to be safe, his posture collapsed and he fell over.

And then, both his arms, his left leg and an eyeball fell onto the floor one after the other.

It looked like he had prosthetic hands, limbs, and eyes.

His face was colored with shock and he began to tremble but I understood that it was not from anger.

He checked his own hands and leg countless times and tears began to flow from his now recovered eye.

Then, Purification cleaned him up and the treatment was complete.

“The treatment is over. Well done.”

He was at a loss for words and knelt to the ground before taking a praying position.

At that instant, I had a slight déjà vu when memories of that time when I performed the same thing to Lionel and the others at Ienith surfaced.

“Orford-san, I wish to return to the surface but before that, would it be alright if I listen to what he has to say first?”

“Hou? Ooh of course. You can just use this room.”

Thus, before returning, another task came up.

CHAPTER 191

RUMOR AND BELIEF

It's only been a little over a year since I met him at Ienith.

Even though only that small amount of time has passed, the atmosphere around him makes it feel like he is a completely different person.

In my memory, he had pride and dignity as a noble and despite his air of immaturity, it felt like he had an overflowing sense of justice.

Even though he became a slave because he lost in the war and was trapped in his desire for revenge on the Empire, I remember feeling that his way of thinking was still rough and naive.

And then encountering him after a long time, the air around the man in front of me was completely different from the air he had that time.

Because he had a somewhat tense air around him like it had been sharpened and honed, he gave off an aggressive impression.

Maybe his naivety was wiped off after experiencing hell once, or ... well nevertheless, I have no interest in staring at a man's face for an extended period of time so I'll scrutinize the information he has and think of my future actions to take.

“Firstly, where did you hear the rumor that I was no longer a Healer and was punished by the God?”

“That information passed around about half a month ago. I first heard of it during a gathering of nobles and by that time, the majority of the nobles already knew about it. Just in case you’re interested, the source of the information was not specified.”

Half a month ... it seems short but it is very long.

However, that information was a mere rumor.

Unless somebody attests to it, it shouldn't be anything more than a rumor.

" ... I'm not saying that you easily believe in rumors but it seemed like Wisdom-dono believed it too?"

"Yes. Actually, immediately after hearing the rumors, the Rubruk Kingdom sent letters to the Saint Schull Allied Nations and the Healer's Guild to verify the information but there were no replies at all."

" ... And that is strange?"

Wisdom-dono nodded and explained to me the reason in sequence for believing the rumors.

"As you know, my Rubruk Kingdom has been in a prolonged war with the Empire and we have requested for the dispatch of Luciel-sama countless times."

" ... This is the first time I heard of it."

"Well, they probably don't want to send an S-rank Healer that only appears every few decades to a conflict zone. Well because of that, after continual refusals in various situations ... this time the rumors overlapped and whispers of maybe the S-rank Healer actually doesn't exist began."

" ... I see. It's true that there's no smoke without a fire. However, even with that ..."

"Yeah. I'm familiar with nobles so I didn't really believe it. However, for some reason, the Church began to rush to erase those rumors."

Why would they do that? If they do such a thing ... wait, don't tell me it's a conspiracy? Somebody induced it ... or maybe they incited it.

" ... So you believe the rumors to be true because of that cover-up?"

"Yeah. I judged that it had high credibility."

There were no contradictions in his words.

If that's the case, Shisho and Lionel are in danger.

I took a deep breath, switched gears and changed the topic.

“If that’s the case then I want to quickly return to the surface... before that, I would like to hear about the Empire next. You said that you were experimented upon but do you know why they were burying magic stones in the human body?”

“In my case, it was an experiment to increase magical power amount by embedding magic stones in the body. Even though they supposedly used purified magic stones, perhaps because the magic stones were not compatible, my body began to release miasma and I heard someone say that it was a failure.”

In other words, it wasn’t an experiment to create demons? Or maybe there was a change in the experiments?

“When you were captured by the Empire, did you hear anything about experiments to take in the power of the demon race or magic tools that can transform humans to demons.”

“No. It’s true that there were talks about the demon race but the aim was for the annihilation of the demon race. I recall such conversations. Naturally, I did not see any demons either.”

“Annihilation? They weren’t in collaboration with the demon race?”

“That’s not the case. If demons appeared, my country would have a hard time maintaining the equilibrium and it won’t be strange if my country got destroyed.”

He laughed and said in a self-demeaning way but those words were enough to confuse me.

What’s going on? I understand that he can’t be lying since he just made a pledge but is the information he holds actually true?

Certainly, I don’t hold a good image of the Empire.

There’s the incident involving Lionel and the others, they tried to secretly crush Ienith, they launched wars and held onto peoples’ weakness to have a supply of slaves so they don’t give a good impression.

However, thinking about it, Lionel and the others are Empire citizens too.

Thinking about it that way, the Empire without their publicly known General is actually ... brittle?

There, I suddenly felt something connect.

And I recalled hearing talks of Lionel still in the Empire.

“Er, have you met the Sen’Oni General?”

“ ... I have. He is the perpetrator who buried the magic stone in my body.”

It seems like the imposter is still around, so that’s why Lionel’s notoriety is terrible.

“ ... By the way, do you recall the lame slave at Ienith?”

He seemed like he was thinking for a while before he quickly nodded.

“I remember if it’s that old man. He was empathetic and spoke to me.”

Old man ... it’s true that Lionel was an old man when I met him.

While dispelling the memories that surfaced, I imagined Wisdom-dono’s look when he sees the now rejuvenated Lionel as I decided to tell him the truth.

“He is Lionel, that renowned Sen’Oni General. Now he is my retinue and is in Ienith so the one in the Empire is an imposter.”

“That’s impossible! I’m certain that he was called General Lionel and I should have seen his face once before on the battlefield ...”

Wisdom-dono lost his composure but I had a request for Orford-san who was listening to us.

“Orford-san, I’m sorry for the sudden request but could you transform into me?”

“ ... Umu. Very well.”

Orford-san used mixed magic, Transformation Magic to transform into me.

“Is this alright?”

Rather than looking similar, it’s totally a carbon copy of myself.

“Thank you ... It's a strange feeling to see another one of myself. Is this a magic that anybody can use?”

“It's possible if it is a high order Magician who is capable of mixing the opposite attributes of Water and Fire. However, mixed magic constantly consumed magical power during use so it's impossible to maintain for long durations?”

“Incidentally, can it be applied to another person?”

“It's possible ... but, it's impossible without considerable skill and technique.”

“I see. So Wisdom-dono, what do you think?”

” ... Unbelievable. But, if it's true ... that time, my face was immediately covered with an iron mask.”

It seems like he has an idea.

Nevertheless, if they are so careful in their preparation, then isn't there also the possibility that they are monitoring Lionel? However, it's unlikely that Shisho or Lionel would not notice it.

Was the person who circulated the rumors that I can't use Holy Attribute Magic perhaps an imposter among my companions?

To Wisdom-dono who was greatly perplexed, I explained from my point of view what kind of person the real Lionel is.

“During battles, Lionel fights to protect his companions. That's why he is always fighting in the forefront and I feel that he is a true warrior who dislikes deception and strategy.”

” ... A personage like that is the real one? Then who exactly is that man?”

“He would be an imposter.”

” Shit.”

Even if his brain accepts it, because he actually experienced it, he would definitely vent his hatred if he met Lionel.

While thinking about his complication feelings, seeing how I have been acting on the premise that the Empire is involved with the demon race, I decided to first find out more about the Empire.

Since I've asked all that I wanted to ask, next would be to establish a cooperative relationship.

"Then will Wisdom-dono be staying in Nelldal?"

"Ah. That was the plan but my aim for coming here was to find a means to treat my body so ..."

"If so then?"

"Yes. I've achieved my goal so I no longer have any reason to stay here."

"You're glad that you are cured right?"

"Of course. I feel nothing but gratitude towards Luciel-sama. If you ever need my insignificant help for anything in the future, I will do my best to cooperate."

The suffering expression he had until just now was gone and now a smile has returned to his face.

"Thank you. If possible, please spread the word in the Rubruk Kingdom that I have become a Sage."

"Okay. I'll tell them that the rumors were meant to ensnare Luciel-sama and they would immediately be convinced once they see my body."

He said and laughed once again.

After that, I once again told Orford-san of my intent to immediately return to the Church and he guided us to the same room with the magic circle where we first arrived in Nelldal.

"Well then Luciel-dono, I'll be transferring the three of you to the Church?"

"I'm sorry to trouble you."

"Umu. Leave it to me. And, that ... would you be giving me that~?"

"Yeah."

I took out a bottle of honey and took out another bottle as well.

“You’re giving me two?”

“One of it is Object X. If a monster attacks, try to make it drink that. If you can make it drink it, even a Red Dragon can be defeated.”

”... I’ll take note of it.”

After that, I exchanged magical communication bead magical power with Orford-san and promised to one day meet Wisdom-dono again.

“Well then, I’ll be sending you three, Luciel-dono. Have a cup of honey mead with me the next time you come.”

“Sure. I’ll be in your care.”

“Nadia-kun, Lydia-kun. If you two ever feel like studying magic, I welcome you to come visit again.”

“Okay. If we have a chance to come here again, please show us around the streets of Nelldal.”

“I’ll try my best to be able to use both regular magic and Spirit Magic.”

Listening to their replies, he gave the same good-natured old man smile that he showed us when we first came to Nelldal.

“See you again, Wisdom-dono.”

“I will make sure to spread the message that you’ve attained the Sage job.”

When Orford-san channeled magical power into the magic circle, the magic circle glowed and the next instant, we were swallowed by the light.

Thus, that marked the end of the seemingly long but short three months in Nelldal.

